

**THA 474: Legal Issues in the Arts  
Spring 2019**

**FINAL PROJECT**

**THE CASE**

Julie Taymor and LOH Inc. v. 8 Legged Productions LLC et al

**THE ASSIGNMENT**

Thoroughly analyze both sides of the case identified above. In contrast to previous class assignments where you considered only one set of arguments, for this final project you will examine and evaluate the claims of both the prosecution and defense. As established in the Complaint and Countercomplaint, there are four major issues of law to be included:

1. Violation of rights under the US Copyright Act
2. Breach of contract
3. Violation of right to privacy
4. Joint Authorship

Although a fifth issue, breach of fiduciary duty, is presented as part of the Countercomplaint, you are not required to address it as a separate issue of law. Facts or legal considerations related to this charge may be included in the other four issues as you deem necessary or omitted in its entirety.

At the conclusion of your analysis, offer a concise yet supported opinion on who should prevail in this case and why.

**THE DETAILS**

- Examine both the facts and the law for each of the four major components of the lawsuit.
- Use specific details, case law, and legal references to support your analysis. A paper that relies solely on facts and makes little to any mentions of actual law, no matter how compellingly those facts are presented, will not be a complete assignment. Make use of case precedents, either presented in class or that you find on your own, to substantiate your interpretation of the relevant laws.
- It is expected that successful completion of this paper will require the identification and analysis of several outside sources. These include, but are not limited to, newspaper articles, television interviews, case law studies, and the laws themselves. Although it is fine to read them, please do not use an individual blog or opinion piece as a substantiation of fact—though at times they may lead you to other appropriate sources.
- All material must be formally cited. The choice of style is up to you, as is the use of footnotes or in-line citations. The paper must also include a comprehensive bibliography.
- If you choose to utilize materials presented online for this class, please locate and cite the original source and not the site. If you have difficulty finding one of the readings, please ask the instructor for assistance.
- **Important Note:** Although this case has been settled, the details of the settlement are sealed and will not be available to you. Neither side achieved complete victory. Please do not use the mere existence of a settlement as a fact in support of either side.

## **PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL**

This final paper should be considered a formal writing assignment. As such, spelling, grammar, and accurate proofreading are expected and will be factored into your grade.

It is up to each student to consider the best order for addressing the arguments in this case. You may wish to analyze one side and then the other, or to take each issue of law and present both perspectives at one time. When making your choice, consider what will make for the strongest analysis, and the clearest written work.

The instructor anticipates it will take approximately 10 pages in order to successfully complete this assignment.

Please use a commonly available font in 11 or 12 point size, double spacing, and one-inch margins on the page. Please staple all pages and include your name on the first page.

## **RESOURCES**

The website for this course includes the following materials:

1. A copy of the full complaint filed by Julie Taymor (with the attachments that have not been printed out)
2. 8 Legged Productions answer to the complaint and filing of a countercomplaint
3. Julie Taymor's response to the countercomplaint
4. A link to the US Copyright Law
5. A link to the State of New York Civil Rights Law
6. A link to the US Declaratory Judgment Act
7. A document listing all of the filings in this case, and a link which can be used for acquiring them. Please note that many of the documents on this list are only available for purchase. It is not necessary that you buy additional case materials in order to successfully complete this assignment, but the material is available to you should you choose to do so.

The instructor is not providing links to any specific newspaper articles or other analyses of the case, but they are both abundant and easily located.

## **CRITERIA FOR GRADING**

- Inclusion of all four issues of law
- Thoroughness of analysis on both sides of the case
- Clarity of your final opinion
- Accuracy of spelling, grammar and other formatting issues

**THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DUE ON WEDNESDAY MAY 15 BY 12 NOON**

(This is a built-in one-day extension beyond the official final exam time, so late papers will be marked as such.)