claim for royalties. Allocation of the royalties collected occurs in one of two ways. In the first instance, these funds will be distributed through a negotiated settlement among the parties. 17 U.S.C. 111(d)(4)(A). If the claimants do not reach an agreement with respect to the royalties, the Copyright Royalty Judges (“Judges”) must conduct a proceeding to determine the distribution of any royalties that remain in controversy. 17 U.S.C. 111(d)(4)(B).

On December 12, 2012, representatives of the Phase I claimant categories (the “Phase I Parties”) filed with the Judges a motion requesting a partial distribution of 50% of the 2011 cable royalty funds pursuant to Section 801(b)(3)(C) of the Copyright Act. 17 U.S.C. 801(b)(3)(C). Under that section of the Copyright Act, before ruling on a partial distribution motion the Judges must publish a notice in the Federal Register seeking responses to the motion to ascertain whether any claimant entitled to receive such royalty fees has a reasonable objection to the proposed distribution. Consequently, this Notice seeks comments from interested claimants on whether any reasonable objection exists that would preclude the distribution of 50% of the 2011 cable royalty funds to the Phase I Parties. The Judges must be advised of the existence and extent of all such objections by the end of the comment period. The Judges will not consider any objections with respect to the partial distribution motion that come to their attention after the close of that period.

The Judges also seek comment on the existence and extent of any controversies to the 2011 cable royalty funds at Phase I or Phase II with respect to those funds that would remain if the partial distribution is granted.

The Motion of Phase I Claimants for Partial Distribution is posted on the Copyright Royalty Board Web site at http://www.loc.gov/crb.


Suzanne Barnett,
Chief U.S. Copyright Royalty Judge.

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