

TOP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWYERS 2017

Kalpana Srinivasan

FIRM

Susman Godfrey LLP

CITY

Los Angeles

SPECIALTY

Litigation

Srinivasan's practice reaches across the spectrum of intellectual property work. Copyright, patent, trade secrets and antitrust cases are all in her wheelhouse. Of late, her most notable victories have allowed musicians to protect copyrighted works.

Recently, she represented singer songwriter Melissa Ferrick and several other copyright holders in a class action lawsuit against the music streaming giant Spotify.

Ferrick and the class alleged that Spotify USA Inc. had made songs available for streaming without properly obtaining rights from the songs' composers. Under the terms of the settlement that Srinivasan helped secure, Spotify will create a \$43.45 million cash fund to pay copyright holders for past infringements and will pay for fees going forward.

The settlement also requires Spotify to create an industry group that will share copyright catalogue data so that licensing the content will be easier for music industry members. Ferrick et al. v. Spotify USA Inc. et al., CV16-08412 (S.D. N.Y., May 26, 2017).

"That's one of the things we really like about the settlement," Srinivasan said. "It builds in these mechanisms for the

industry to better address these issues going forward."

Srinivasan's work has allowed to work with icons in the music industry. Her representation of former Turtles band members Mark Volman, or Flo, and Howard Kaylan, or Eddie, garnered national headlines last fall.

The 1970s rock legends and a class of musicians sued Sirius XM over unpaid royalties for songs recorded before 1972. The day before Srinivasan was set to give oral arguments in the case, it settled with a deal valued at nearly \$100 million.

The court granted final approval this May. Flo & Eddie Inc. v. Sirius XM Radio Inc., CV13-05693 (C.D. Cal, filed Aug. 6, 2013).

Srinivasan's interest in the world of technology predates her career as a lawyer. After graduating from Yale University, Srinivasan spent four years as a reporter with the Associated Press where she wrote about technology.

Srinivasan said the ability to communicate complex facts about the tech world to everyday readers has stayed with her as a lawyer.

"Ultimately I was writing for a broad audience," she said, noting that IP issues are more often that not nuanced and technically intricate.



"Figuring out how to translate some very complicated issues in the fields that I'm in for juries and for other lawyers and for the court is very imperative."

— Nicolas Sonnenburg