



The Enforcer

Nationwide Anti-Piracy Enforcement Bulletin

SEPTEMBER

2007

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Fake NIKE shoes help uncover \$1.3 million in counterfeit products.
- Suspect miraculously breaks five laws all at once, officials uncover 35 bags of marijuana.
- 60 burners seized during raid in Connecticut.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Regional Raids	1-4
Statistics	5-7
Piracy Contacts	8

It's Gotta Be The Shoes!

Investigators Stumble Upon Counterfeit Shoes, Uncover \$1.3 Million In Counterfeit Products

Back in 1988, everyone was asking, "Is it the shoes?" The question was popularized by Spike Lee, in a famous commercial for NIKE. Lee wanted to know what made Michael Jordan the best player in the universe, his answer: "It's gotta be the shoes!"

Fast forward to 2007 and investigators from the Southern Region have reincarnated the popular question. This time, however, criminals have taken the place of a basketball legend. How does a criminal give away a million dollar counterfeit operation? "It's gotta be the shoes!"

A pair of counterfeit shoes opened up a huge case for officials in Ballentine, SC. While investigators were unloading a storage facility, they observed a man doing the same at a nearby storage unit. One of the investigators



Above: Thousands of counterfeit CDs and DVDs lined the step van wall.

noticed something familiar about the boxes the man was carrying. He recognized the boxes to be those that normally contained counterfeit NIKE shoes. They later notified the Richland County Sheriff's Department to investigate further.

Officials were able to obtain a search warrant on the storage unit. During the search, officers were stunned to find several hundred thousand dollars in counterfeit shoes. It was also determined that the subject was a prior

felon with an extensive criminal history. Officers discovered the boxes were originally shipped to Newberry, SC and notified their officials.

After setting up surveillance, the Newberry City Police Department and Newberry County Sheriff's Department contacted the owner of the residence. The subject, not the sharpest tool in the shed, gave officials consent to search the property.

As officers searched the property, they found stores set up to sell counterfeit shoes and music. Inside a large step van, the subject had isles lined with boxes of counterfeit music CDs and DVDs. Officials were able to seize a total of 6,395 CDs, 1,273 cassettes, 3 burners and thousands of counterfeit clothes and shoes.



Above: Cassette tapes were also found, officers still searching for stoned-wash jeans and '85 Camaro.



Above: Along with counterfeit CDs and DVDs, officers also uncovered thousands of counterfeit clothes.



Above: The subject's residence was obviously set up as a retail type store with all kinds of counterfeit products.

For additional copies of the newsletter or to be added to the distribution list
Please contact Eric Dunn at edunn@riaa.com or 202-775-0101

Regional Raids

“Robbery, burglary or distributing counterfeit CDs and DVDs, there is always something behind the sound of a gunshot.”

Gunshots Help Officials Bust A Distribution Location

Officers Respond To Shot Call, Discover A Distribution Location In Atlanta



Left: Shelves stacked with counterfeit CDs and DVDs found after the robbery.

Unless you are watching the start of a track and field race, gunshots are a sign that something illegal is going down. Officials hunt down the sounds like a street version of Marco Polo. The sound of gunfire is usually just the tip of the iceberg. When officers track down the origin of the shots, they know to expect more illegal activity. Robbery, burglary or distributing counterfeit CDs and DVDs, there is always something behind the sound of a gunshot.

Officers in Atlanta found this out on September 11. Members of the Fulton County Police Department responded to the report of gunshots in the area. As officers arrived at the scene, their hands were quickly full with a robbery in progress.

Officials were able to grab the two robbery suspects and place them into custody. It was then determined that officials had killed two birds with one stone. The suspects were not only robbers, however, they also sold counterfeit CDs and DVDs.

Officials notified RIAA investigators of their discovery. Investigators arrived to assist in the seizure

of all counterfeit goods. On the scene they counted the CDs, took photos of the evidence and stored it all at the Fulton County Police Department.

Both suspects were later charged and taken into custody. One of which was taken to the local hospital for injuries he suffered during the robbery attempt.

Officials were able to come away with 2,800 CDRs and 1,789 DVDs.

Below: Boxes were found filled with hundreds of counterfeit CDs.



Above: The walls were stacked with thousands of counterfeit CDs and DVDs, organized and lined on shelves.



Above: Among the thousands of counterfeit CDs discovered, officials even found brand new ones like 50 cent.



Three Strikes And You're Out...Criminal Now On His Second At-Bat

Officials Discover Alabama Man Simultaneously Breaking Five Laws

A lot of criminals step up to the judicial plate, take their pitches and strike out. Law Enforcement officials, lawyers and judges like to use the baseball reference, three strikes and you're out. Break three consecutive laws and it's bye bye real world, hello jail cell. For an Alabama man, the first inning is over and he's onto his second at-bat.

Dark tint on the windows, strike one. Driver's license suspended, strike two. Pirated CDRs and DVDRs in the car, strike three you're out. Unfortunately for this criminal, it does not stop there. On to the next inning. Possession of marijuana, strike four, operating a CD/DVD burner lab, strike five.



Above: Officials found 35 bags of marijuana in the man's car.

That's a pretty poor batting average.

The criminal was pulled over by officers from the Hoover, AL Police Department for having too dark tint on his windows. It was then that officers uncovered much more. The driver also had a

suspended license. As officers took inventory of the car during their impound procedure, they discovered 146 pirated CDRs and 599 pirated DVDRs. But wait...there's more! As the search continued, officers also found 35 bags of marijuana. Just as officers had placed their tinted window-suspended license-pirated CD seller-pot smoker into custody, they discovered even more at his residence.

When officers went to the subject's home, they found several hundred pirated movies and a 6 unit CD/DVD burner. Officials were finally able to seize a total of 6 burners, 146 pirated CDRs and 599 pirated DVDRs.

Hey, Beer Man...One Bud Light And A Pirated CD Please

Nothing tops off the excitement of a football game like an ice cold beer. OK, so maybe one cold beer usually turns into four or five, or maybe 10 or 12. Either way, football and beer go hand-in-hand. Fans light up as the beer vendor walks down the aisle. They wave their \$8 in the air as though the vendor is auctioning off the next cold one. In a stadium in Birmingham,

AL, the beer vendor might have some competition.

During the SWAC Football Classic at Legion Field, investigators searched for vendors selling pirated CDs. As officials surveyed the outside of the event, they found no vendors engaged in the sale of illicit products. Inside, however, investigators found more than just beer vendors working the crowd.

While surveying inside the venue, investigators identified one vendor selling illicit product to the fans. Officers with the Birmingham Police arrested the suspect and were able to seize 297 urban CDRs.

Beer men, do not worry about this new competitor. Investigators will have them all locked up before you can yell "Cold Beer!"

"Inside, however, investigators found more than just beer vendors working the crowd."

Officials Have Seized Every Burner In The World...Well, Almost

60 Burners Seized During Incident In Connecticut

Where have all the burners gone? Since May 2007, the number of burners seized has consistently dropped each month. Investigators have gone from over 800 burners seized in May, to nearly half that in September. This only leaves one explanation: investigators and officials have scared away all the criminals.

Since the start of the year, investigators have helped seize over 5,000

burners. In the process, they have put just over 3,200 people behind bars. Criminals have taken note of the stellar job RIAA investigators have done. They have not ceased to continue burning, however, the numbers prove they might be nervous of who is coming after them.

The biggest incident from September took place at a burner lab in Connecticut. The New York office assisted the

New Britain Police Department in the execution of a search warrant. On September 4, investigators helped close down the music store/burner lab. During the search, officials discovered and seized 60 burners, 15,848 CDRs, 500 music DVDs and boxes of assorted raw material.

Criminals will continue to do their jobs poorly, while officials succeed in finding every burner possible.

Below: Thousands of counterfeit CDRs and music DVDs were found in the store.



Below: Officers discovered 60 burners lined up in 10 separate towers.



Pirated Latin CDs Are No Bueno

Every pirated CD, no matter the culture, is still illegal. Urban, Country even Latin, if the CDs are burnt, they are no bueno. Investigators were able to take down a swap meet vendor who thought otherwise. Along with the Alameda County Sher-

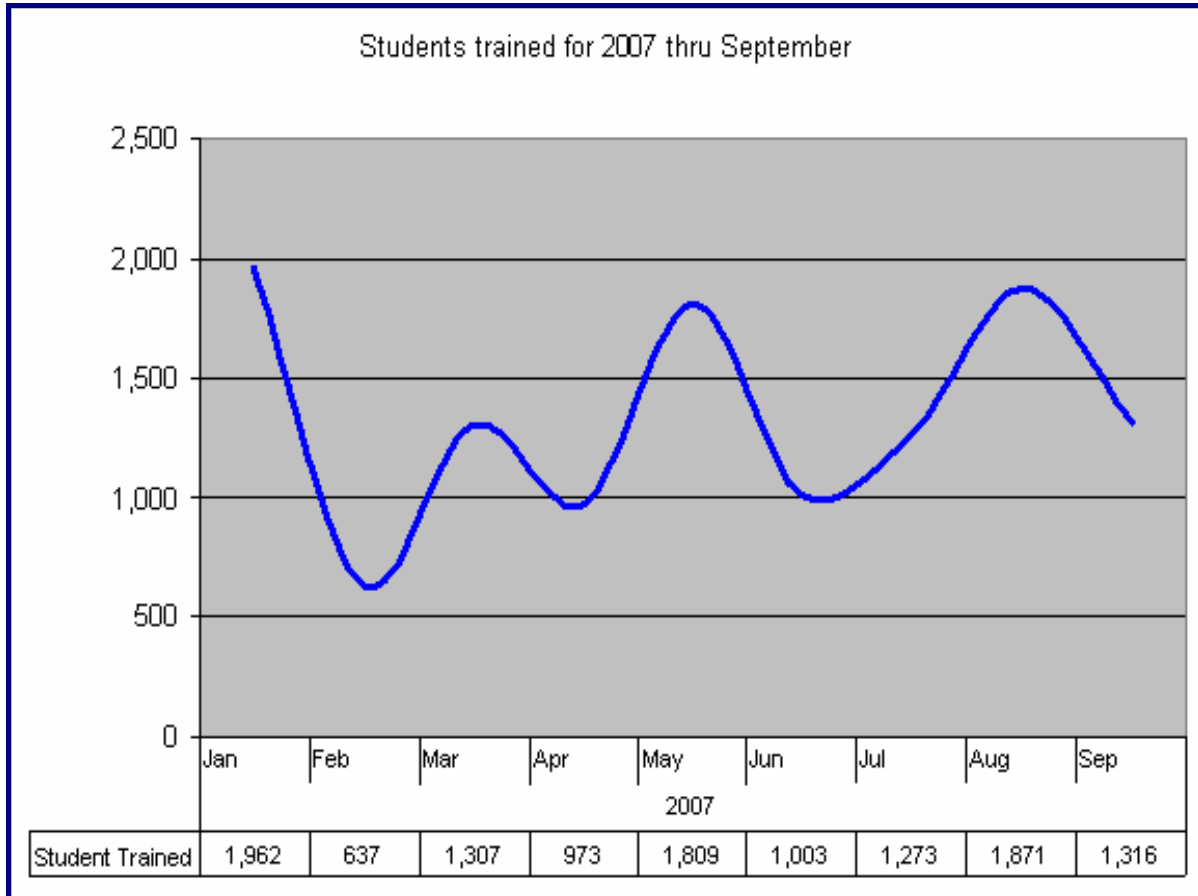
iff's Office, investigators assisted in raiding a swap meet in Oakland, CA. Officials were able to make eight arrests at the swap meet. Seized from the location were a total of 5,265 pressed Latin CDs.



Above: RIAA investigators helped seize thousands of pressed Latin CDs.



Over 12,000 Students Trained Since January



RIAA Anti-Piracy Training

The RIAA conducts training for Law Enforcement free of charge. Our classes are given in a variety of formats from 20 minute speeches at roll calls, to one-hour, two-hour, four-hour and full day seminars. Depending on your agencies regulations, many of our training sessions can earn state certified law enforcement training credits. If you would like additional information on the training offered by the RIAA, please contact:

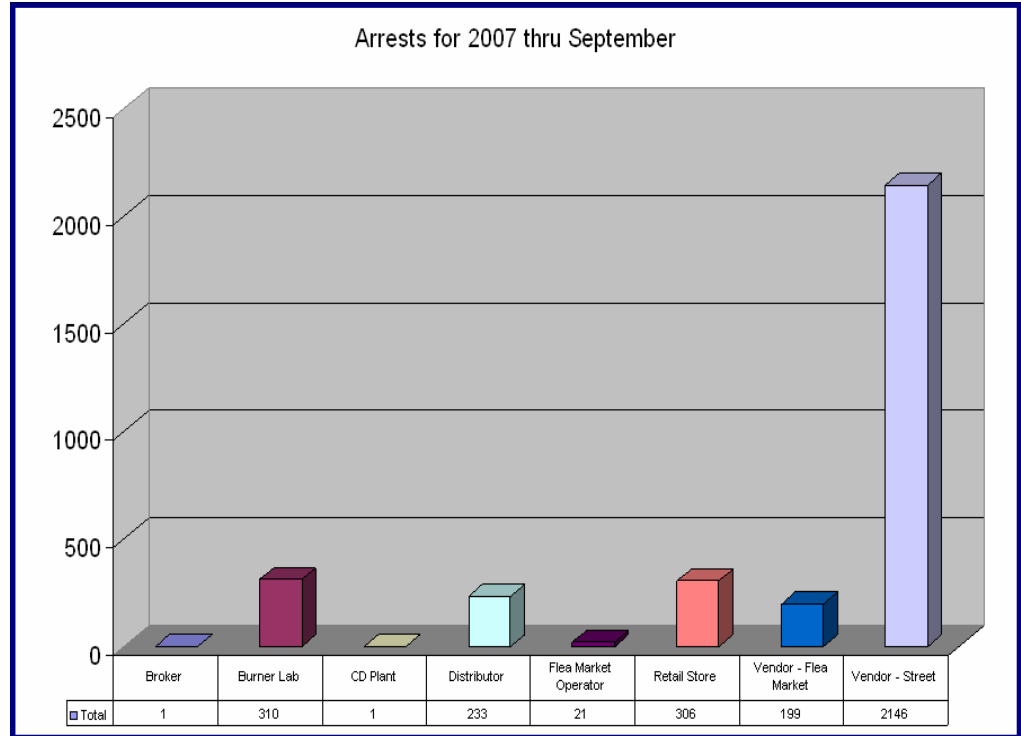
Mike George, mgeorge@riaa.com

Statistics

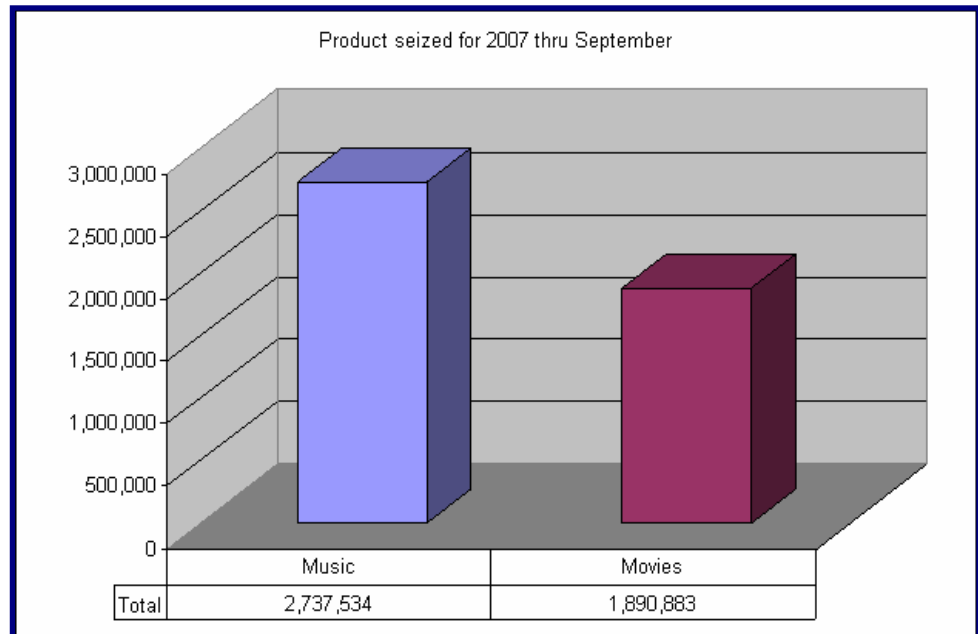
3/4 year statistics are based on the information from January 2007 through September 2007.

3/4 Year Statistics

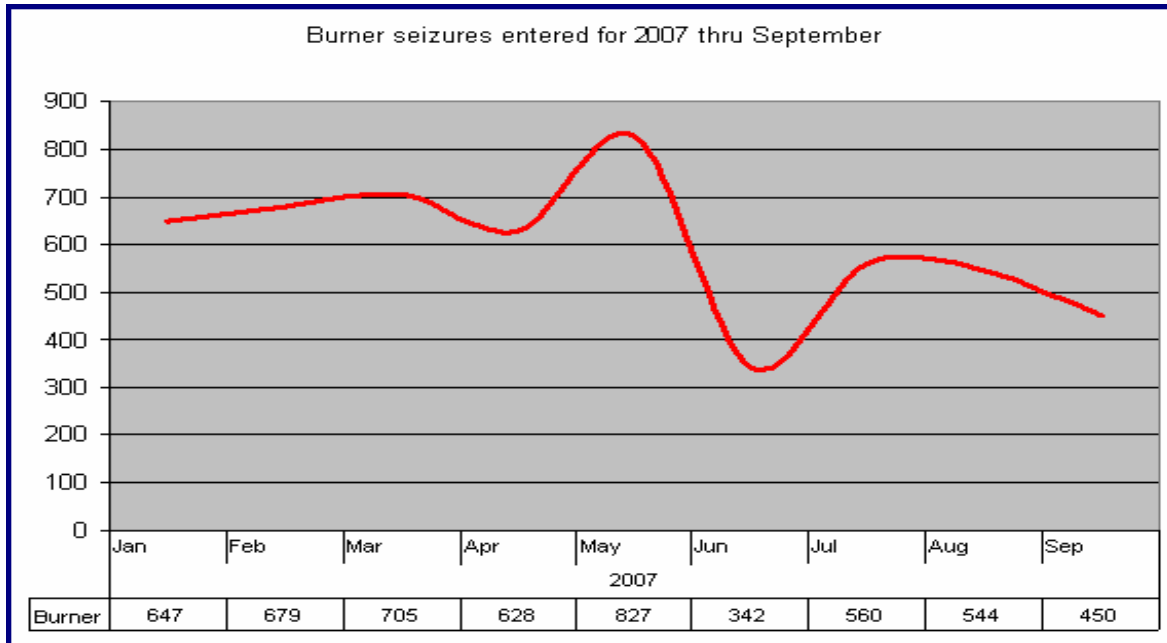
Arrests



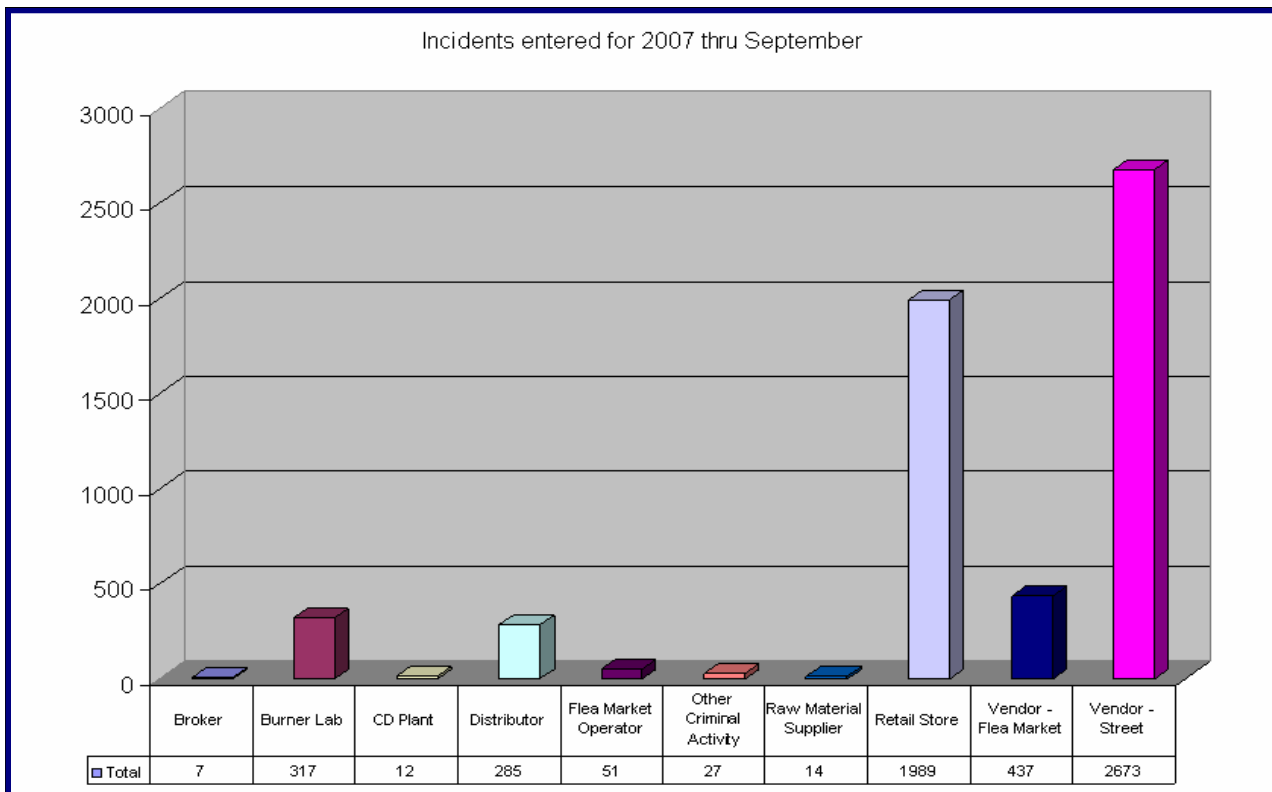
Products Seized

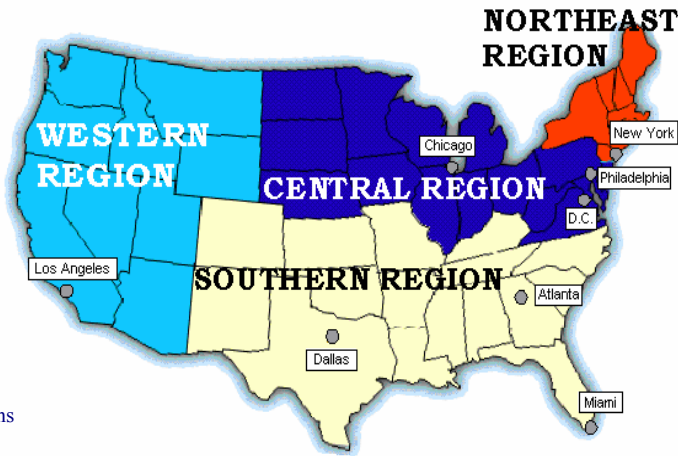


Burners Seized



Incidents





Northeast Region

Robert Barchiesi, Director of Investigations
 John Curry, Regional Counsel
 Phone: 212-533-5869
 Fax: 212-533-5746
 Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey (Mercer County & North), New York, Rhode Island, Vermont

Southern Region

John Langley, Director of Investigations
 Matt Kilgo, Regional Counsel
 Phone: 678-402-2000
 Fax: 678-402-2006
 Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

Miami Field Office

Wanda Rosado, Investigator
 Phone: 305-444-3114
 Fax: 305-444-3127
 Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic

Dallas Field Office

Gil Torrez, Supervisor of Investigations
 Phone: 817-473-1341
 Fax: 817-473-0325
 Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

Washington D.C. Headquarters

Michael George, Director of Investigative Services
 Carlos Linares, VP, Anti-Piracy Legal Affairs
 Phone: 202-775-0101
 Fax: 202-223-8322

Central Region

Frank Walters, Director of Investigations
 Deborah Robinson, Regional Counsel
 James Trovarello, Supervisor of Investigations
 Phone: 610-521-8566
 Fax: 610-521-8567
 Delaware, New Jersey, (Camden County and south), Pennsylvania

Chicago Field Office

J. Martin Walsh, Supervisor of Investigations
 Phone: 708-460-2200
 Fax: 708-460-2277
 Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin

Washington D.C. Field Office

Andy Pappas, Investigator
 Phone: 202-775-0101
 Fax: 202-223-8322
 District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia

Western Region

Marcus Cohen, Regional Counsel
 Phone: 714-236-0830
 Fax: 714-236-0930
 Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Guam

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) is the trade group that represents the U.S recording industry. Its mission is to foster a business and legal climate that supports and promotes our member's creative and financial vitality. Its members are the record companies that comprise the most vibrant national music industry in the world. RIAA members create, manufacture and/or distribute approximately 90% of all legitimate sound records produced and sold in the United States.

The Anti-Piracy Department of the RIAA investigates the illegal production and distribution of sound recording, which costs the music industry hundreds of millions of dollars a year domestically.

Consumers, retailers and replicators can report suspected music piracy to the RIAA by calling a toll-free 24/7 live operator. Calls can be taken in English or Spanish at 1-800-Bad-Beat.

Visit us on the web



www.RIAA.com