



ninth circuit ends lawsuit involving copyright protection for characters, leaving plaintiffs in a bad mood

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On March 16, 2020, the Ninth Circuit ended a lawsuit alleging that Disney's *Inside Out* infringed plaintiffs' alleged copyright in characters known as "The Moodsters." *Daniels, et al., v. The Walt Disney Company, et al.*, Case No. 18-55635 (9th Cir. Mar. 16, 2020). The Court elaborated on the standards governing character protection and enunciated a rigorous standard for pleading "idea submission" claims in federal court.

Plaintiffs' five characters are color-coded anthropomorphic emotions, each representing a different emotion. Between 2007 and 2009, Plaintiffs allegedly pitched The Moodsters to Disney. In 2015, Disney released *Inside Out*, a film that centers on five anthropomorphized emotions that live inside the mind of an eleven-year-old girl.

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