

LOCKE LIDDELL & SAPP LLP

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

3400 CHASE TOWER
600 TRAVIS STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002-3095

AUSTIN • DALLAS • HOUSTON • NEW ORLEANS

(713) 226-1200
Fax: (713) 223-3717
www.lockeliddell.com

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Contact: Julie Gilbert
Director/Strategic Communications
713-226-1140

COMPAQ WINS LARGE ATTORNEYS' FEES IN COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT CASE

April 29, 2002 -- In what is believed to be the largest attorneys' fees ever awarded in a copyright infringement case, a federal district judge has awarded Houston-based Compaq Computer almost \$2.8 million – the entirety of the request – and said the fees and rates were both “necessary and reasonable.”

Last July, a federal jury ruled Compaq had not committed copyright infringement of a copyrighted book, *The Hand Book*. The book's author, her husband and her company, Ergonome Inc. were seeking more than \$800 million in damages.

Following last summer's jury verdict and judgment in Compaq's favor, Compaq requested an award of attorneys' fees under the copyright statute. In April, Federal District Judge Melinda Harmon granted Compaq's motion and awarded \$2,765,026 against the author, New York concert pianist Stephanie Brown, her husband and Ergonome.

Compaq is represented by Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP. Michael Sutton is the lead counsel on the case along with Matt Reeves and Steve Boyd.

“This award sends a message to copyright claimants that they should not assert claims of infringement based on minute similarities and then wildly inflate their claims for hundreds of millions of dollars, or even millions of dollars,” said Sutton. “Compaq consistently urged that it had not infringed *The Hand Book* and this attorneys' fee award further vindicates them and demonstrates their good faith in defending this case.”

Established in 1891, Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP is recognized as one of the leading law firms in Texas and throughout the nation. A full service law firm with offices in Austin, Dallas, Houston and New Orleans, Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP has more than 400 lawyers who represent a broad range of businesses and individual clients having extensive domestic and foreign business interests.