

In The News

# *IP Litigator* Publishes “Stairway to Heaven” Copyright Case Analysis by Ira Sacks, Evelina Gentry

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*IP Litigator* published an analysis by [Ira Sacks](#) and [Evelina Gentry](#) of the copyright case involving Led Zeppelin’s “Stairway to Heaven” song, which spanned six years in court.

“Nearly 40 years after Led Zeppelin released *Stairway to Heaven*—viewed by many as one of the greatest rock songs of all time—Led Zeppelin was sued for copyright infringement. The estate of guitarist Randy Wolfe, who composed *Taurus* in 1968, claimed that Led Zeppelin and its guitarist Jimmy Page and vocalist Robert Plant copied portions of it. After a six-year-long court battle, the *en banc* Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (the “Court”) upheld a jury verdict in favor of Led Zeppelin finding that the two songs *are not* substantially similar. Additionally, in a decision that will broadly impact the music industry, the Court overturned the so-called “inverse ratio rule,” a precedent that has governed copyright cases in the Ninth Circuit for the last 43 years.”

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