

Julie Jennings Comments on Illegal Music Downloading

Senniger Powers' Julie Jennings is quoted in a front page article in the October 8, 2007 issue of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The article, "Can't Stop the Music," discusses illegal music downloading and file-sharing. The issue has recently received national attention due to an October 4, 2007 federal jury decision that found a Minnesota woman liable for \$222,000 in damages to six record companies for illegally downloading and sharing copyrighted music online.

Ms. Jennings explains that despite the fact that "the copyright law does include penalties," sites allowing illegal free music sharing or downloading remain available. "I think they started off so popular because people didn't even realize they were illegal. But they still do it because it's easy and free." She says that "the problem has been, it's been difficult to enforce so it doesn't look like there are a lot of awful consequences." Legal online sales grew significantly in 2006, showing that "some people have stopped, and others have become pretty cautious about illegal downloading."

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) website (<http://www.riaa.com>) has a list of legitimate sources for legally downloading music. A recent report by the Institute for Policy Innovation (IPI) states that copyright piracy from movies, sound recordings, software, and video games costs the U.S. economy a total of \$58 billion annually.