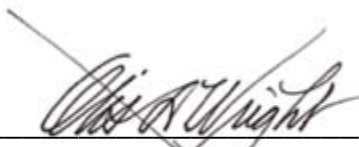


1 *Mint Co.*, 292 F.3d 1139, 1156 (9th Cir. 2002). Upon consideration of Defendants'
2 motion papers, the Court is convinced that this was nothing more than a shakedown
3 suit. This observation is based not only on evidence presented by Defendants, but
4 also on the Court's own interaction (or lack thereof) with Slep-Tone. (*See e.g.*, ECF
5 No. 89 (dismissing case with prejudice for Slep-Tone's failure to prosecute).)
6 Overall, the Court finds that Slep-Tone prosecuted this case to maximize settlement
7 recovery for a minimum amount of work. Ordinarily, such behavior is frowned upon
8 but acceptable. But in this case, Slep-Tone takes trolling to the next level and
9 essentially ignored all requests for discovery, explanations of exculpability, and
10 requirements to act in good faith. (Mot. 2–6.)

11 Therefore, the Court finds that Slep-Tone's conduct was both vexatious and in
12 bad faith, and awards Defendants reasonable attorney's fees in the sum of \$18,105.¹
13 The Court declines to additionally sanction Slep-Tone at this time.

14 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

15 January 15, 2012



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18 **OTIS D. WRIGHT, II**
19 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**

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28 ¹ The award of \$18,105 includes: \$11,525 already billed to the client by J. Marie Gray; \$3,780 for work through November 9, 2012 by Craig McLaughlin; and \$2,800 representing the eight hours expended on this Motion.