

Courthouse News Service

Friday, January 08, 2016 Last Update: 5:31 AM PT

Billboard Battle Waged on Sunset Boulevard

By MATT REYNOLDS



LOS ANGELES (CN) - Billboard companies sued Irish singer-songwriter Hozier and others, including the Hollywood Film Festival and Anschutz Entertainment Group, claiming they slapped "unsightly" displays over premium ad space.

Lead plaintiff Liberty Media Group sued Hozier (Andrew Hozier-Byrne), five other people and six companies in Superior Court on Tuesday. It claims they violated "local laws against trespassing, vandalism and graffiti" by posting promos on its "high profile media sites" from July 2015 to December 2015.

Tennis shoe company K-Swiss, Australian singer-songwriter Courtney Barnett, Hollywood Film Festival and Gilead Sciences are also accused of vandalizing the billboard company's property.

The complaint does not explain the nature of the promotional materials. But Hozier, best known for his 2013 hit "Take Me To Church," toured the United States last year, stopping at LA's Microsoft Theater on Oct. 13.

The "high-profile media sites" include three spaces on La Brea Avenue, two on Sunset Boulevard, and at least two others in Los Angeles.

"Defendants began vandalizing, trespassing and destroying property at these media sites, including without limitation, the media themselves and those existing posters and advertisements placed there by plaintiffs for their clients, who paid for such placement, to promote their businesses or events," the complaint states.

The billboard companies seek an injunction and damages for nuisance, trespass, conversion, interference with contract and unfair business practices.

Liberty is represented by Bryan Freedman with Freedman + Taitelman.