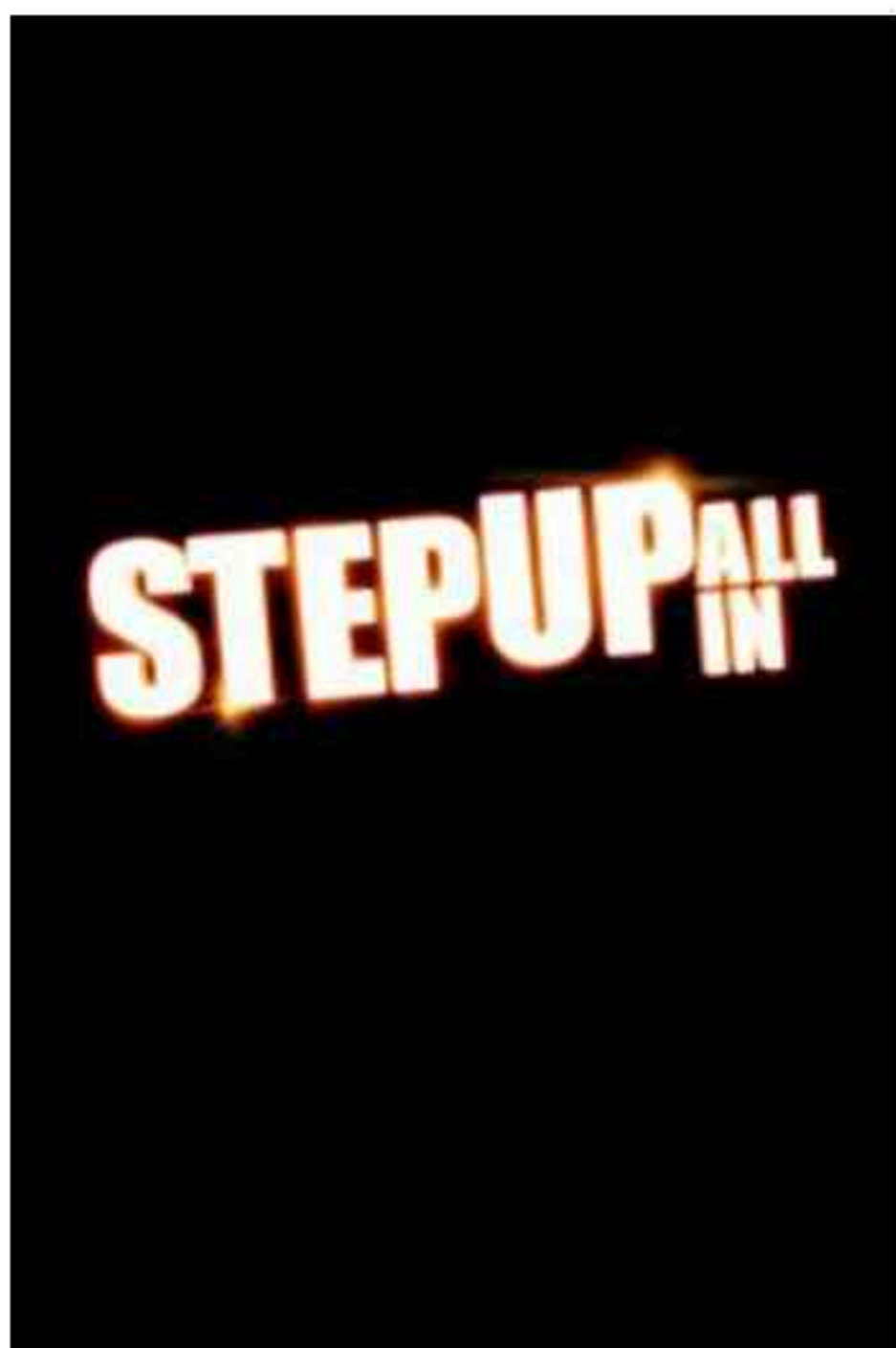


United Talent Agency Sues Ex-Clients Over Commissions

8:55 AM PDT 3/28/2015 by Eriq Gardner

Four lawsuits are filed including one against the executive producer of "Step Up" sequels.



United Talent Agency is becoming more aggressive on the commissions collection front with a series of lawsuits filed this week against former clients over money allegedly due.

The talent agency has lodged complaints in LA Superior Court against at least four individuals whose credits include such films as *The Hobbit*, *Edge of Tomorrow* and *300: Rise of an Empire*. The defendants work on the production side.

UTA is hunting for its 10 percent with tales of doing oral agreements with loan-out companies, negotiating six- and even seven-figure deals for clients, and then being handed termination notices with

ongoing commissions still outstanding.

The lawsuit with the biggest amount of money at stake — as well as some apparent push-back — involves **David Nicksay**.

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UTA says it procured work for him as executive producer on such projects as *Walking with Dinosaurs 3D* and *Step Up All In*. For the first, he got \$307,500 and for the latter, he got \$1 million, according to the complaint.

After being terminated in December 2013, UTA says it sent a protection letter to Nicksay claiming a total of \$104,750 in total commissions owed.

Nicksay is said to have first acknowledged in an email that commissions were owed for *Step Up 5*, but asserted that "commissions for *Walking with Dinosaurs* were fully paid... [and that] services rendered during post production were expressly exempted from commissions."

UTA believes that "completely false," asserting breach of oral contract, accounting, quantum meruit, and other causes and seeking the money, plus interest, general damages and legal costs. The agency is represented by **Bryan Freedman** and **Brian Turnauer** at Freedman + Taitelan.

Email: Eriq.Gardner@THR.com

Twitter: [@eriqgardner](https://twitter.com/eriqgardner)

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