

No Doubt settles lawsuit over 'Band Hero' vid game

October 3 2012, by Anthony Mccartney



In this file photo of a video game image released by Activision, a scene is shown from the game, "Band Hero." Court records show the band and "Band Hero" maker Activision Publishing Inc. settled a lawsuit that No Doubt filed in 2009 claiming they never gave permission for players to use their digital likenesses to sing other artists' songs. (AP Photo/Activision)

(AP)—No Doubt has settled its lawsuit against gaming giant Activision over the use of band members' likenesses in the video game "Band Hero," court records state.

The settlement was reached Monday, a few weeks before trial was set to begin on the band's claims of fraud, violation of publicity rights, and breach of contract.

Terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

The band's attorney, Bert Deixler, declined comment. Michael Zeller, an attorney for Activision, did not immediately return a phone message.

The band sued Activision Publishing Inc. over a feature in the game that allows players to perform the songs of other artists using the likenesses of No Doubt front woman Gwen Stefani and other band members.

Activision had denied all [wrongdoing](#) and argued the idea of "unlocking" unadvertised features of a [video game](#) has been around since the early days of the industry.

The game debuted in November 2009 and was a [spinoff](#) of Activision's popular "[Guitar Hero](#)" game series.

No Doubt's lawsuit was filed after the release of "Band Hero" and claimed it turned the group into a "virtual karaoke circus act."

The case cited instances in which players could use Stefani's avatar to perform suggestive lyrics from the Rolling Stones' hit "Honky Tonk Women," or have a virtual version of bassist Tony Kanal sing his band's hit "Just a Girl" in Stefani's voice.

Copyright 2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: No Doubt settles lawsuit over 'Band Hero' vid game (2012, October 3) retrieved 30 January 2023 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-10-lawsuit-band-hero-vid-game.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--