

Pandora wins court battle with music publishers

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Internet radio leader Pandora has won a court battle with the music publishing society known as ASCAP (AZ-cap) that could help it lower its royalty payments.

Pandora pays 4.3 percent of its revenue in songwriter royalties to groups including ASCAP, which distributes them to major publishers like Sony/ATV and Warner/Chappell. Starting two years ago, major publishers began to withdraw rights from Pandora, forcing it to reach separate deals.

Judge Denise Cote's ruling in a [federal district court](#) in New York on Tuesday said such withdrawals violate the conditions ASCAP has acted under since a 1941 agreement to prevent [anticompetitive behavior](#).

ASCAP says the ruling does not undermine its position that songwriters should be paid fairly by Pandora, an issue to be addressed in a December trial.

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