



Who Files Pay-Per-View Piracy Lawsuits Against Bars: Joe Hand, G&G and Two Others

Original analysis of 14,534 records from the Federal Judicial Center, FY2006–FY2025 (federal fiscal years, Oct–Sep).

Published October 17, 2026. <https://settlementinsight.com/research/pay-per-view-piracy-lawsuits-against-bars>

Joe Hand Promotions filed 147 of the 299 new federal cable and satellite TV piracy lawsuits in fiscal 2025, or 49.2%, more than any other plaintiff. Over fiscal 2016–2025, four event distributors (Joe Hand Promotions, J&J Sports Productions, G&G Closed Circuit Events and Innovative Sports Management) brought 93.6% of the 4,290 lawsuits in this category, which covers suits against bars and restaurants over unlicensed pay-per-view fights.

49%

Joe Hand's share of cable/satellite suits, FY2025

94%

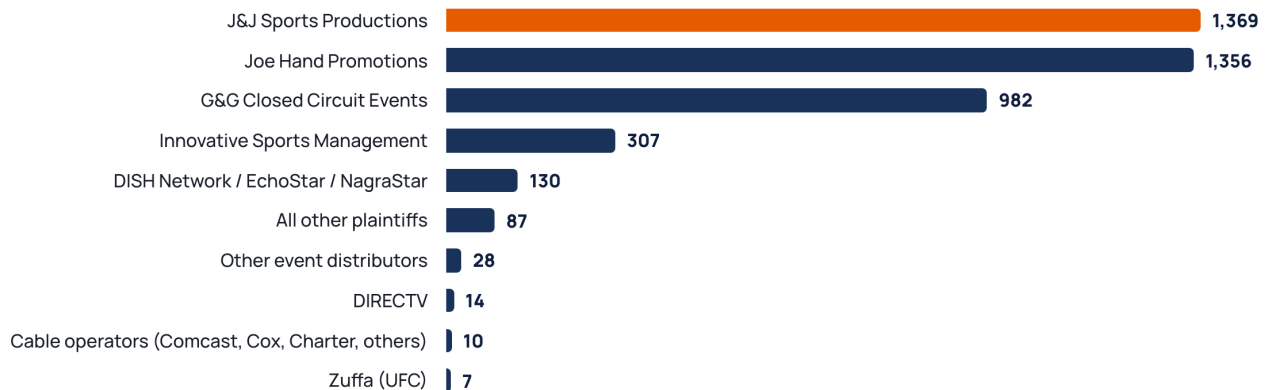
Four firms' share of cable/satellite suits, FY2016–25

4.29K

New cable/satellite TV suits, FY2016–FY2025



New federal cable/satellite TV lawsuits by plaintiff, FY2016–FY2025



Source: Settlement Insight analysis of data from the Federal Judicial Center

settlementinsight.com/research/pay-per-view-piracy-lawsuits-against-bars · free to use with a link (CC BY 4.0)

What the federal court filings show

- 1. Joe Hand leads the most recent year.** Joe Hand Promotions filed 147 new lawsuits in fiscal 2025 (49.2%) and G&G Closed Circuit Events 97 (32.4%). Together the two companies accounted for 81.6% of the year's 299 new cases.

2. **Four companies, almost every case.** From fiscal 2016 to 2025, J&J Sports Productions (31.9%), Joe Hand Promotions (31.6%), G&G Closed Circuit Events (22.9%) and Innovative Sports Management (7.2%) filed 4,014 of 4,290 new cases. Pay-TV providers such as DISH Network and DIRECTV filed 3.6%.
3. **J&J Sports Productions dropped out.** J&J Sports Productions filed 54.5% of new cases in fiscal 2006–2015 and remained the largest filer over the ten-year window, but it filed none in fiscal 2021 through 2025. Joe Hand Promotions was the largest single filer in 5 of the last ten fiscal years.
4. **Filings fell from the fiscal 2011 high.** New filings in this category reached 1,486 in fiscal 2011, the highest year in our series since fiscal 2006. The 299 new cases in fiscal 2025 were 79.9% fewer.
5. **Texas courts see the most cases.** Federal courts in Texas received 1,187 of the 4,290 new cases since fiscal 2016 (27.7%), ahead of California (597) and New York (336). These are raw counts, not adjusted for the number of bars, restaurants or residents in each state.

How we measured

Case data come from the Federal Judicial Center's Integrated Database (IDB) of federal civil cases, in the release our database imported on October 10, 2026. The comparison figures come from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Table C-2 for fiscal 2025 and fiscal 2020, downloaded on October 17, 2026.

We count cases filed in U.S. district courts under nature-of-suit code 490 (Cable/Satellite TV) from October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2025, by federal fiscal year. A new lawsuit is a case with origin code "original proceeding"; reopened, removed and transferred records are excluded, and duplicate IDB rows for the same docket are counted once. That leaves 4,290 new cases for fiscal 2016–2025.

Plaintiffs are grouped by the first plaintiff name in the IDB, after removing spacing and punctuation variants (for example "J & J" and "J AND J"). Outcomes use the IDB disposition codes for cases terminated by September 30, 2025: default judgment, dismissed as settled, and voluntary dismissal.

To check the data, we counted all code 490 records, including reopened and transferred cases, as the federal judiciary does in its caseload tables. Our count for fiscal 2025 is 311, against 311 in Table C-2; for fiscal 2024 it is 470 against 471, and for fiscal 2020 318 against 322.

Checked against published figures

- Cable/Satellite TV (NOS 490) civil cases commenced in U.S. district courts, FY2025 (Oct 2024–Sep 2025): published 311, our count 311 (exact match). [Table C-2. U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Commenced, by Basis of Jurisdiction and Nature of Suit, 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2024 and 2025](#)
- Cable/Satellite TV (NOS 490) civil cases commenced in U.S. district courts, FY2024 (Oct 2023–Sep 2024): published 471, our count 470 (0.21% apart). [Table C-2. U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Commenced, by Basis of Jurisdiction and Nature of Suit, 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2024 and 2025](#)
- Cable/Satellite TV (NOS 490) civil cases commenced in U.S. district courts, FY2020 (Oct 2019–Sep 2020): published 322, our count 318 (1.24% apart). [Table C-2. U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Commenced, by Basis of Jurisdiction and Nature of Suit, 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 and 2020](#)

Limitations

- The IDB does not record what kind of defendant was sued. The distributors' complaints target commercial establishments such as bars and restaurants, but we cannot confirm this case by case, and suits by pay-TV providers may target other kinds of defendants.
- Plaintiff names are free text and truncated in the IDB. Grouping relies on name patterns; a few cases with misspelled names may fall into the combined row of other plaintiffs.
- Only lawsuits are counted. Demand letters and settlements reached before a suit is filed do not appear in court data, so the number of businesses contacted is likely higher.
- The fiscal 2025 figures are based on the current IDB release. Courts can report cases late, and later releases may add a small number of cases for recent years.
- State totals reflect where cases were filed and are not adjusted for the number of bars, restaurants or residents.

Data files

- [Federal cable/satellite TV piracy lawsuits by fiscal year and plaintiff, FY2006–FY2025](#) (CSV, 20 rows)
- [Federal cable/satellite TV piracy lawsuits by state, FY2016–FY2025](#) (CSV, 49 rows)
- [How lawsuits by the four largest event distributors ended, filings FY2016–FY2023](#) (CSV, 5 rows)
- [Federal cable/satellite TV piracy lawsuits by plaintiff, FY2016–FY2025](#) (CSV, 10 rows)

How to cite

Goldberg, L. (2026). Federal Pay-Per-View Piracy Lawsuits — Cable/Satellite TV Cases by Plaintiff, State and Outcome (FY2006–FY2025) [Data set]. Settlement Insight. <https://settlementinsight.com/research/pay-per-view-piracy-lawsuits-against-bars>

Free to reuse with attribution under CC BY 4.0. Please link to <https://settlementinsight.com/research/pay-per-view-piracy-lawsuits-against-bars> as the source.