



CHANGE IS NOW

WHAT IS THE CONSENT DECREE?

The BMI consent decree is an agreement between BMI and the United States government containing the rules under which BMI does business. The decree, among other things:

- Governs BMI's obligations to its license customers;
- Sets the rules for BMI's relationships with its songwriters, composers and publishers; and
- Creates a "rate court" where BMI and its customers can resolve disputes regarding the rates and terms of their license agreement.

Why does the consent decree need to be modified?

Most of the current decree was created in 1966. The decree is simply not built to address the specific challenges and opportunities of the current music rights marketplace.

Each modification to the decree proposed by BMI is intended to address specific needs of all participants in the marketplace — songwriters, composers, publishers and music users.

What are the changes to the consent decree proposed by BMI?

DIGITAL RIGHTS WITHDRAWAL

Allow publishers to give BMI the right to license works for certain uses, while permitting publishers to retain the exclusive right to license works for other defined, digital uses. This will enable BMI to offer easy, efficient access to our wide-ranging repertoire for many traditional music uses, while allowing publishers and music users the opportunity to negotiate their own free-market digital deals.

BUNDLING RIGHTS

Clarify the decree to allow BMI to license not just the public performing right, but any rights relating to the musical work that a music user needs to bring its product or service to the public. This will create a "one-stop" licensing source to meet the needs and match the pace of the digital marketplace.

ARBITRATION

Move the rate-setting forum from federal court to a binding arbitration model. Music users will be assured of a rate-setting mechanism to resolve disputes, but one that's quicker and less expensive for all parties.

WRITE ON.