SLINGBOX: COPYRIGHT, FAIR USE, AND ACCESS TO YOUR TELEVISION PROGRAMMING ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

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"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." – John F. Kennedy[1]

I. INTRODUCTION

Like many working professionals who spend more time in the office or traveling than at home, Blake and Jason Krikorian were frustrated at not being able to watch their television programming while traveling on the road. They would pack into airport and hotel bars, only to catch highlights of the latest games or snippets of the national news. Avid San Francisco Giants baseball fans, they wanted to follow their favorite team's games regardless of location. The 2002 baseball season brought their frustration to a boil as the Giants were on their way to the playoffs.[2] They had a once in a lifetime opportunity to see their team possibly win a World Series, but it was not feasible due to their travel schedule. Their disappointment inevitably led to the invention of the Slingbox.

The Slingbox is a device that allows consumers to watch their home television content anywhere in the world, on their computer or handheld media device.[3] "As young entrepreneurs we spent our lives in the office, on airplanes, and in hotel rooms – in short, everywhere but in front of our living room TVs watching our favorite team," remarked Blake Krikorian before the Committee on House Energy and Commerce Sub-

1. President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Address in the Assembly Hall at the Paulskirche in Frankfurt, West Germany (June 25, 1963).

2. *Fair Use of Digital Content: Hearing Before the Subcomm. On Comm., Trade, and Consumer Protection of the H. Energy and Comm.* (2006) (discussing statement of Blake Krikorian, Co-Founder and CEO, Sling Media, Inc.).

3. Sling Media, Inc., Sling Media Turns Mobil Phones and Handheld Computers into Personal TVs with the Release of SlingPlayer Mobile, http://www.slingmedia.com/get/io_1157565976900.html (last visited Dec. 10, 2007).