

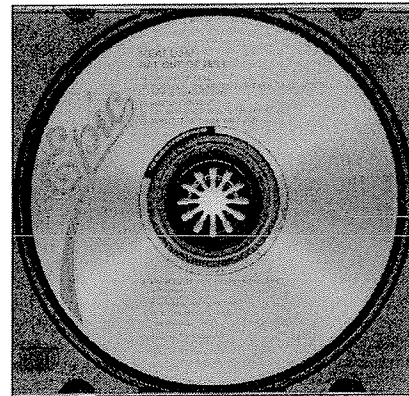
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Cleveland Entertainment Shareholders Awarded \$1.8 Million In Lawsuit Over Meat Loaf Album

Anthony Jones - Celebrity News Service Contributor

New York, New York, US (CNS) - In a case involving years of litigation, millions of dollars and singer Meat Loaf, two shareholders of Cleveland Entertainment Co., Inc., the company who released Meat Loaf's best-selling "Bat Out of Hell" album, are being awarded \$1.8 million after a four day trial which ended with the decision on Friday.



Music industry exec Steve Popovich failed to pay out a portion of an earlier judgement. The original suit by Popovich against Sony Music said Popovich was personally damaged by distributor Sony Music failing to place the "Cleveland International Records" logo on 10 million Meat Loaf CDs.

The logo, which appeared on all albums from Cleveland Entertainment recording artists like Meat Loaf, was deemed a corporate asset. He was awarded \$5 million in 2005.

Failing to share the payment with his shareholders, Sam Lederman and Stanford Snyder, found him in breach of his financial obligations, according to the jury. The two were represented by New York entertainment attorney Brian D. Caplan of the firm Caplan and Ross.

Popovich has a 51% share in the company, while Lederman and Snyder hold 49%. After a new decision by a jury in the Federal District Court in Cleveland, Popovich is being ordered to pay \$1.8 million.

"We are gratified that the jury was able to work through and resolve a number of complicated issues and vindicate our clients' rights," Brian D. Caplan said to CNS. "The history of Cleveland Entertainment Company doing business as Cleveland International Records, is a shared legacy among the three individuals who jointly worked together to make that company great."

Popovich, 67, worked alongside Clive Davis when he helped sign Meat Loaf in 1977 along with Lederman and Snyder. Meatloaf's "Bat Out of Hell," one of the best-selling albums of all-time, has sold over 43 million copies worldwide.

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