Snapchat snapback in arbitration case

The gadfly website "snapchatcheck.com" was close enough to Snapchat's own URL for the company to use it as the leverage to get snapchatcheck taken down from the Web. The site offered to let Snapchat users check whether their personal information was stolen in a 2013 hack against the company. Snapchat probably didn't want any public reminders of the attack, but its effort to knock out slap snapchatcheck off the Web fell short when an arbitration panel ruled they didn't have a case, even though the watchdog website's URL was so similar to its own. Joshua Jarvis explains why in this blog:
http://www.trademarkandcopyrightlawblog.com/2015/02/udrp-panel-tells-snapchat-to-check-itself-regarding-snapchatcheck-com/

Intentionally failing the 'Woody Allen rule' can work in court

Comedian Woody Allen once said, "showing up is 80 percent of life." When it comes to pressing a claim of copyright infringement in court, however, showing up is pretty much the whole ball of wax – particularly if you're the plaintiff. In a tongue-in-cheek new post, @dkluft runs down two recent copyright infringement cases in which the plaintiffs apparently lost confidence in their claims and decided that the cleanest way to extricate themselves from the proceedings was to abandon Woody's 80 percent rule. Check out the case details here.
http://www.trademarkandcopyrightlawblog.com/2015/03/defaultstars/

Not every rules change needs a public airing, Supreme Court says

Even modest changes to federal guidelines can kick up dust, as the Labor Department discovered when it issued back-and-forth interpretations of overtime requirements for mortgage loan officers between 1999 and 2010. The department modified its guidelines without public input, which became a point of contention in the case *Perez v. Mortgage Bankers Association*. In Feb. 28 ruling, the Supreme Court sided with the Labor Department, saying it had the authority to modify its guidelines without public comments. Robert A. Fisher and Allison Anderson explain the ruling in this update
http://foleyhoag.com/publications/alerts-and-updates/2015/march/supreme-court-authorizes-the-dol-to-change-its-interpretative-guidance-without-public-input

HUGHES
An EchoStar Company

2015 Year in Review Posts

Hughes 2015 highlights: Corporate social responsibility

Some of the most important work Hughes Network Systems did in 2015 does not show up on the conventional bottom line, but it made a difference in other important ways.

Hughes joined with satellite providers around the world to narrow the digital divide that separates people with adequate Internet access from those with little or none. The company forged a technology and marketing partnership with OneWeb, a cooperative international effort to bring bring affordable broadband service to millions of households, schools and organizations worldwide with a global constellation of LEO satellites. Hughes will develop OneWeb's ground system, including gateways and terminals, and also employ the OneWeb network to deliver services to our global base of customers and distribution partners.

In the U.S., Hughes continued its partnership with the National 4-H Council to promote interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineer and Math). The company sponsored programs like "Tech Takeover Days" to promote STEM careers to students who might not otherwise be exposed to them. And for the 16th year in a row, Hughes was ranked among the best employers by the Alliance for Workplace Excellence for its diversity and environmental consciousness.

Hughes 2015 highlights: Business growth

Hughes was one of the companies that set the pace for the satellite industry's overall growth in 2015. Expansion in global markets helped the company surpass five million satellite terminals shipped cumulatively to customers in more than 100 countries – close to a 50 percent share of the global satellite networking market. They were accompanied by significant deployments of Hughes' JUPITER HTS (High Throughput Satellite) platform in the Americas, EMEA and Asia. With steady growth in 2015 after surpassing 1 million North American subscribers in 2014, Hughes remains the world's largest satellite Internet service and the top service in two of the world's largest markets, the U.S. and India.

Hughes' success attracted notoriety in the satellite industry and the business community at large. The company won a Silver Award as one of the top North American companies in the 2015 Best in Biz Company of the Year Competition. It also won the Changing Lives Award at the 17th annual VSAT satellite industry conference in London, and was recognized with a gold "Stevie" Award for corporate social responsibility for its STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) partnership with 4H.

Hughes Hughes President Pradman P. Kaul was singled out for achievement when he received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Via Satellite Excellence Awards in Washington, DC. For his role in shaping the success of the global satellite industry.

2015 was a year of growth. On to 2016, a year of opportunity.

Hughes 2015 highlights: International growth

2015 saw Hughes expand its presences in Asia, South America and Africa while growing into the number-one satellite Internet service in India.

In Malaysia, two of the country's largest satellite communications service companies purchased Hughes' JUPITER system and HX broadband satellite system to extend Internet access to rural areas. Mexican provider Pegaso Banda Ancha purchased a Hughes JUPITER Gateway and more than 5,000 remote terminals to provide Internet access to remote communities and schools.

A major Middle Eastern oil company chose Hughes JUPITER System as the foundation of a new network to monitor its wellheads, and the Russian Satellite Communication Company (RSCC) chose JUPITER as its platform for HTS (High Throughput Satellite) broadband services in Siberia and Far East Russian. In Africa, the African Development Bank (AfDB) expanded the managed services it purchases from Hughes.

Look for more growth in international markets in 2016 as more countries grasp the potential of satellite Internet access to bridge the "digital divide" and businesses expand their use of satellite for applications over wide geographical areas.

Hughes 2015 highlights: U.S. expansion

New products and growth in HughesON™ managed solutions fueled a great 2015 for Hughes in the U.S. market.

Customers in key industries such as banking, government, retail, hospitality and retail petroleum turned to HughesON to connect office, branch networks and remote locations. In one of the most ambitious examples, Hughes and satellite solutions provider Signal Mountain Networks implemented an 80-site managed satellite network for the U.S. Geological Survey. The network will collect data and information about seismic events and their effects on buildings and structures in the U.S. and the Caribbean.

The Florida Army National Guard is implementing a similarly ambitious Hughes managed network solution to deliver Internet access to guard personnel and their families across 65 sites. The Texas Department of Information Resources contacted with Hughes to provide data communications and networking equipment and related services for a statewide digital signage and learning management system. These and other enterprise customers chose Hughes managed services for their combination of performance, security and cost-effectiveness.

Product and service advancements helped fuel Hughes' growth. The company enhanced its JUPITER™ HTS (High Throughput Satellite) platform with the new HT1300 high-throughput router. On the consumer side, Hughes released new HughesNet Gen4 plans with SmarTechnologies™ enhancements for higher downloading, browsing, and data usage management. In response to the growing intensity of natural disasters, the company announced Hughes Emergency Services to help public safety agencies when land-based communications infrastructures are knocked out. A steady stream of comparable innovations are expected in 2016.