



[Print this article](#) | [Close this window](#)

Singer Buffett wins trademark settlement

Tue Nov 28, 2006 4:02PM EST

HOUSTON (Reuters) - Singer Jimmy Buffett has settled his trademark infringement suit against an online merchandise retailer who agreed to stop selling Buffett-related items after a brief stay in jail, the performer's lawyer said on Tuesday.

Buffett's suit, the latest in a long-running legal battle that began in Nevada, had accused Robert Akard of Galveston, Texas, of selling T-shirts, CDs and other Buffett-labeled items over the Internet without the singer's permission.

Earlier this month, U.S. District Judge Sam Kent ordered Akard to shut down his Web site, www.underonehut.com, pending the outcome of Buffett's lawsuit, and to account for how much money was made from his online sales.

But at a hearing on the case on Monday, the judge found Akard in violation of the restraining order, cited the retailer for contempt of court and had him thrown in jail, according to Erin Powers, a spokesman for Buffett's lawyer, Anthony Buzbee.

A few hours later, Akard reached an out-of-court settlement with the entertainer, promising not to sell Buffett-labeled items in the future, Powers said. The judge then allowed Akard to reopen his Web site selling other beach-themed merchandise.

Buffett, 59, known for his easygoing style and tropical beach-bum persona, achieved pop stardom in the 1970s with such hits as "Margaritaville" and "Come Monday." He went on to parlay his laid-back Gulf Coast image into a business empire that included a Margaritaville clothing line and nightclub chain. He was not in court for the proceedings.

Neither Akard nor his representatives could be reached for comment.

© Reuters 2006. All rights reserved. Republication or redistribution of Reuters content, including by caching, framing or similar means, is expressly prohibited. The Reuters sphere logo are registered trademarks and trademarks of the Reuters group of companies around the world.

Reuters journalists are subject to the Reuters Editorial Handbook which requires fair presentation and disclosure of relevant interests.