

# Cablefax Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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## Patently Speaking: Catonian IP Files Patent Suits in Texas

**Kudelski Group** isn't the only firm hitting cable companies with patent lawsuits these days. On Friday, **Catonian IP Management** filed separate lawsuits against **Charter/Time Warner Cable** and **Cequel Communications/Neptune Holding (Suddenlink)** in the Eastern District of Texas. Catonian claims the companies are infringing on two of its patents that involve regulating access and managing distribution of content to a service provider network. The patents lists *Robert Burke II* and *David Carman* as the inventors. Catonian IP Management shows as having been registered in Texas on July 8, 2016. Charter declined comment, and Suddenlink-owner **Altice** could not be reached immediately. Neptune Holding was formed by Altice as part of its acquisition of **Cablevision** and Suddenlink. When there's one patent suit, there sometimes are others, so it's worth keeping an eye on Catonian and the progress of these cases. One of the patents involved (the "468 patent") was issued by the **US Patent & Trademark Office** in August 2014. It relates to "regulation of access to a network and, more particularly, to distributing content efficiently while protecting the digital intellectual property rights associated with the content." The patent involves regulating access with a controlling node and gateways units. The other patent (the "925 patent") was issued in October of last year and is related to the 468 patent. Catonian has asked for a jury trial. It's being represented by attorneys with **Rabicoff Law** and **Direction IP Law**. Kudelski's **Open TV** and **Nagravision** subsidiaries have filed several patent suits, most recently against **Shaw Communications**. That lawsuit seeks a preliminary injunction prohibiting deployment of the Canadian operator's BlueSky TV, a licensed version of **Comcast's** X1 platform. Kudelski also has litigation pending with Comcast and the **NFL**.

**One World Sports Update:** It looks like **One World Sports** has a new owner. Over the weekend, the logo **Eleven Sports** appeared as the channel bug. This follows months of One World seeking a buyer for the channel. UK-based Eleven Sports has various international sports channels in Belgium, Luxembourg, Poland, Singapore and Taiwan. This would mark its first venture in the US. Eleven Sports declined to offer comment at this time. A **NY Cosmos** spokesperson said the team's TV rights will no longer be with One World Sports, with new



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TV deals expected to be announced later this week.

**NYC Sues Verizon:** NYC filed suit against **Verizon** Monday, saying the company missed a 2014 deadline to pass every home in the city with FiOS. “Verizon must face the consequences for breaking the trust of 8.5 million New Yorkers. Verizon promised that every household in the city would have access to its fiber-optic FiOS service by 2014, NYC mayor *Bill de Blasio* said in a statement. “It’s 2017 and we’re done waiting. No corporation—no matter how large or powerful—can break a promise to New Yorkers and get away with it.” The complaint also alleges that Verizon has filed in many instances, “believed to number at least in the tens of thousands,” to timely complete installs as requested by potential subs. A Verizon spokesperson said the company will defend itself vigorously and that it’s completely in compliance with its franchise agreement. The Verizon spokesperson suggested the city help with various rights of way, access challenges instead of filing a “frivolous” lawsuit.

**Ratings: USA’s** “Chrisley Knows Best,” now in its fifth season, is still going strong. Last Tuesday’s ep scored series highs in 18-49s (1.5m) and P2+ (3m) on an L3 basis.

**Programming:** Need further evidence that we’re in the Golden Age of TV? **MTV’s** Movie Awards are becoming the “MTV Movie & TV Awards.” Set to air live May 7 at 8pm ET, the expanded show will be preceded by the inaugural “Movie & Television Festival.” Live musical acts, special guests and food will be part of a daylong party outside The Shrine Auditorium. The afternoon will culminate with attendees being treated to a front row spot for viewing celebrity red carpet arrivals for the evening’s main event. -- **Food Network** picked up 6-ep “Edible America,” featuring comedian *Jeff Dunham* and his wife *Audrey* visiting and sampling food in various US locales. -- Can’t get enough of **ESPN’s** “30 for 30” film series? Check out the 30 for 30 podcast launching in June. Each ep will explore a sports story like the acclaimed docs, but made exclusively for audio. Initial eps include the true store of the 1990s marketing campaign feature decathletes Dan and Dave. -- **TLC** and **Discovery Life** renewed “Untold Stories of the ER” for 12th season. -- **HLN** is putting *S.E. Cupp* in the 7pm timeslot nightly, starting in early June. She will continue in her role as **CNN** political commentator. The net’s 2017 lineup includes new original series “Beyond Reasonable Doubt,” a true crime series exec produced by *Jane Root*, and “Something’s Killing Me,” a 6-ep, medical mystery series.

**Notes, Notes, Notes: Discovery Communications** completed its registered offering of \$450m aggregate principal amount of its 3.8% senior notes due 2024 and \$200m aggregate principal amount of additional senior notes pursuant to a reopening of its existing 4.9% senior notes due 2026. -- **Moody’s** assigned a “Baa1” rating to **Verizon’s** newly issued senior unsecured notes due 2022, 2027, 2037 and 2047. Verizon intends to use the net proceeds from the sale of the notes to repurchase notes tendered in its concurrent tender offers and for general corporate purposes, including the refinancing other indebtedness, financing, in whole or in part, of Verizon’s pending acquisition of **Yahoo** and discretionary contributions to its qualified pension plans. -- **DISH** placed its \$1bn in convertible notes to a group of institutional investors. The notes will mature on March 15, 2024. Net proceeds of the placement are intended to be used for strategic transactions, which may include wireless and spectrum-related strategic transactions, and for other general corporate purposes.

**People: Viacom** named *Kern Schireson* to the newly created post of evp, chief data officer. He will oversee expansion of Viacom’s data capabilities across all areas of the company’s domestic and international business, including its TV, theatrical, events, consumer products and digital business units. He previously was evp, data strategy and consumer intelligence. -- **TiVo** hired *Walt Horstman* as svp, gm of analytics and advertising. He previously was president of programmatic TV platform **AudienceXpress**, which he built as an entirely new business for **Visible World**. He’s also held senior posts as **Cablevision** and **Accenture**. -- *Ricardo Coeto* was named to the newly created role of evp, production for **Telemundo Studios**. He’ll report directly to *Luis Silberwasser*, pres, Telemundo Network, Studios and Universo Channel. Coeto was most recently director of production and new projects for **TV Azteca**.

**FAXIES Deadline Extended:** Many of you have asked for more time to submit your incredible, unbelievable, seriously-our-team-really-locks-beyond-all-human-comprehension FAXIES entries. So let it be written, let it be done: We hereby grant you until Friday, March 17, and we can’t wait to read all about your PR and marketing triumphs!