



cyril amarchand
mangaldas
ahead of the curve



6th RGNUL National Sports & Entertainment Law Mediation Competition, 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION **Preliminary Round II**

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**6th RGNUL NATIONAL SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT LAW MEDIATION
COMPETITION, 2024**

GENERAL INFORMATION: PROJECT X – WHAT NEXT?

BACKGROUND

Picture this, Hollywood, a realm where dreams are woven into the fabric of celluloid. In this vibrant tapestry, a cinematic opus titled "Project X" emerged, an indie gem crafted by the visionary Nima Nourizadeh. The film, a found-footage extravaganza, chronicled a raucous house party and catapulted the hitherto unknown Thomas Teller into stardom. The silver screen embraced him, but alas, the ensuing chapters of Thomas's career read more like a flop than a blockbuster, with his star waning after the one dazzling performance in "Project X."

Enter Jey Juggernaut, a maestro of commercial cinema, eyes gleaming with opportunity. Recognizing the potential for profit in a sequel, Jey, with his fingers on the industry's pulse, approached Thomas, now a mainstream player struggling to escape the shadows of his fleeting fame. A spark of enthusiasm flickered as Thomas agreed to step into familiar shoes, albeit with a condition - the return of the original cast. A noble idea, though a logistical nightmare, given that many of the cast members had ascended to the mainstream, making scheduling akin to herding cats.

The plot thickened when Nima, the architect of "Project X," sent forth a legal missive, a notice warning Jey of potential copyright infringement if the sequel progressed without his blessing. Seeing an opportunity for a blockbuster sequel, Jey and Nima convened for a meeting, envisioning a collaboration that merged Jey's financial prowess with Nima's creative brilliance.

DISPUTE

As the silver screen duo dove headfirst into the sequel saga, they carved out distinct realms of responsibility in the form of a contract. Though the same cannot be said to be finalized or executed but it serves as a guiding light as both Jey and Nima desire to exercise control on their areas of niche expertise. Some of the relevant clauses can have been reproduced for a quick perusal.

1. General Overview:

- 1.1 This contract expressly outlines the roles and responsibilities assigned to Nima Ourizadeh ("**Nima**") and Jey Juggernaut ("**Jey**") for the production of the sequel to "Project X."

2. Nima's Responsibilities:

- 2.1 Nima is designated as the primary overseer of the sequel's narrative and screenplay development. This includes conceptualization, story development, character creation, dialogue composition, and translating the narrative into a screenplay that aligns with the established tone of the original film.
- 2.2 Casting decisions for the sequel fall under Nima's exclusive control. This authority extends to selecting actors who best embody the envisioned characters, maintaining consistency with the original film, and ensuring artistic coherence throughout.

3. Jey's Responsibilities:

- 3.1 Jey is appointed as the director of the sequel, responsible for overseeing the execution of the screenplay, guiding performances, and ensuring the visual storytelling aligns with Nima's creative vision.
- 3.2 Jey exercises control over the sequel's cinematography, including decisions related to camera techniques, framing, and overall visual style.
- 3.3 Budget management, location selection, and overall production oversight fall within Jey's purview. He is tasked with making decisions that ensure the commercial viability of the sequel while aligning with the collaborative vision.

4. Collaborative Decision-Making:

- 4.1 Both parties commit to regular consultations throughout the development and production phases. Major decisions impacting the overall direction of the sequel, not explicitly outlined in this contract, shall be made collaboratively, with the aim of achieving consensus.

While this seemingly harmonious division came into primary existence, beneath the surface, a cinematic tempest brewed. Both Nima and Jey still had divergent viewpoints on certain aspects which demanded a discussion for amendments.

1. **Cinematography Conundrum:** The clash intensified over the sequel's visual aesthetic. Jey, eyeing box office glory, envisioned a sequel shot on state-of-the-art cameras, abandoning the low-budget found-footage charm of the original. Nima, however, stood as the guardian of authenticity, arguing passionately for the preservation of the raw, gritty allure that had defined the series.
2. **Casting Chaos:** The pièce de résistance emerged with the casting conundrum. Jey, facing the Herculean task of assembling the original cast, considered the incorporation of fresh faces a practical necessity from a financial standpoint. Nima, on the other hand, clung fervently to the notion that the sequel's heart beat in synchrony with the original leads' return, a belief that elevated the series beyond a mere commercial venture.
3. **Profit Allocation Predicament:** In the negotiation arena, the clash ends with a dispute over the spoils of success. Jey, the shrewd financial architect, hungered for a princely 75% of the profits after all expenses were doctored. In stark contrast, Nima advocated for a more democratic split, standing firm at 50%, a gesture not merely for financial gain but for artistic equity.

Negotiations swirled like a cinematic whirlpool, each attempt to find common ground proving futile. Frustration mounted, leading Nima to make a decisive move - abandoning the project. As the sequel languished in developmental purgatory for half a year, Jey, the unyielding proponent of its resurrection, extended a final olive branch. Desperate to breathe life into the cinematic corpse, he beckoned Nima to the mediation table, hoping for a resolution to the impasse that had ensnared their collaborative vision.