

Company settles lawsuit to end e-mail 'spamming'

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A company that once sent as many as 25 million unsolicited e-mail ads per day has agreed to pay \$2 million to settle a lawsuit aimed at ending the so-called "spamming."

Under a consent decree filed in Los Angeles County Superior

Court, Cyber Promotions Inc. also must stop sending unsolicited bulk e-mailings to customers of Earthlink Network Inc., The New York Times reported Sunday, citing documents that Earthlink released Friday.

"The most important benefit of this judgment is the message we've sent to spammers that ille-

gally tap our resources and clog up the Internet with this trash — we won't stand for it," said Garry Batty, chief executive of the Pasadena-based Earthlink, which provides Internet service to more than 450,000 people.

Cyber Promotions, based in Dresher, Pa., was considered the largest purveyor of unsolicited e-

mail ads. A similar injunction against the company was issued last year in a lawsuit filed by America Online, the world's largest online service.

Cyber Promotions has been inactive for several months since its own Internet provider refused to continue providing a connection, the Times said.

Critics complain that the junk e-mails slow down reception of genuine messages and invade the privacy of e-mail users. Programmers continually are upgrading computer programs designed to block the unwanted messages.

California is one of about a dozen states considering laws to limit unsolicited commercial e-mail.



Fred Drasner
Chief Executive Officer

An Open Letter to Students Planning to Attend Law School from U.S. News & World Report

Dear Student:

DON'T YOU JUST HATE TO BE GRADED? Well, by their shrill protests about *U.S. News & World Report* law school rankings, so do most of the deans of the law schools you are considering. However, as a law school graduate with both a J.D. and a LL.M. degree, I can tell you that these same deans will subject you to rigorous grading. You will be required to endure lectures from tenured professors who have not changed their class notes since the Battle of Hastings. Then, after attending class for a full semester, you will be given one exam to determine your grade. One exam, one semester, one grade. One roll of the dice to measure your performance.

At *U.S. News & World Report* we are far more equitable (to use a legal term). We have a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional, sophisticated ranking system developed and evolved over many years to give you guidance on what may be one of your largest financial investments and certainly one of the most important choices for your career in law and perhaps beyond. While our law school rankings should not be the only criteria in your choice of a law school, they should certainly be an important part of the analysis.

Get your copy of *U.S. News & World Report's Best Graduate Schools* guide on newsstands now. Or, to make it easier for you to see the book that 164 law school deans would prefer you not see (notwithstanding their commitment to the First Amendment), call 1-800-836-6397 (ask for extension 5105) and I will arrange for a copy of the book to be sent directly to you at \$1 off the newsstand price.* This will also ensure that you have a copy of these important rankings because, as a result of publicity surrounding the deans' determination to have you ignore the rankings, they are a very hot item.

These law school rankings are a small part of our philosophy of *News You Can Use*®: information we bring you in each issue of the magazine to help you manage your life.

Good luck in law school and good luck on making the right choice.

Kindest Regards,

Sincerely,

* Shipping and handling charges additional.

1290 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 600, New York, NY 10104

www.usnews.com