

Litigator of the Week

Runners-Up and Shout-Outs

By Ross Todd
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► A team at **Latham & Watkins** helped Spotify win a lawsuit claiming it underpaid the required royalty to use musical works. After Spotify added audiobooks to its premium service, the Mechanical Licensing Collective, the government-appointed music license administrator, sued Spotify, claiming that the streaming service inappropriately paid a lowered “bundled” rate for music royalties. But U.S. District Judge Analisa Torres in Manhattan dismissed the suit this week, finding that Spotify had not violated the section of federal copyright governing compulsory licenses. “Under the facts as alleged, audiobook streaming is a product or service that is distinct from music streaming and has more than token value,” Torres wrote. “Premium is, therefore, properly categorized as a Bundle, and the allegations of the complaint do not plausibly suggest otherwise.” The Latham team representing Spotify includes partners **Alli Stillman**, **Sy Damle** and **Michael Bern** and associates **Raymond Gans**, **Chinyere Amanze** and **Grace McLaughlin**.