**Federal Judge in Seattle Upholds Jury Verdict Holding Zillow Liable for Infringing VHT Studio’s Copyright in Thousands of Real Estate Photographs**

ROSEMONT, Ill. – June 21, 2017 – The federal district judge presiding over VHT Studios’ (VHT) copyright infringement lawsuit against Zillow, Inc. and Zillow Group (Zillow) has issued an order affirming the portion of the jury’s verdict finding Zillow liable for willfully infringing VHT’s copyrights in over 2,700 photographs, and awarding VHT over four million dollars in statutory and actual damages.

VHT CEO and co-founder Brian Balduf was pleased that the Court rejected Zillow’s effort to challenge the jury’s verdict that Zillow willfully infringed those photographs, noting that this ruling is “important because it protects the interests of photographers, real estate agents, brokerages, homebuyers and sellers.”

The Court did find for Zillow on VHT’s claims regarding others of the photographs at issue. VHT plans to appeal that ruling.

VHT also plans to appeal the judge’s December 2016 ruling granting Zillow summary judgment on VHT’s claims regarding tens of thousands of additional photographs by continuing to display them on individual home detail pages on Zillow.com (the Listing Site) after the subject properties are off market.

The Listing Site claims involve Zillow’s continued use of VHT photographs of properties that had been sold, or where the listings had expired or transferred to other agents weeks, months or even years earlier. Many agents have expressed concerns with such post-listing uses, including worries over homebuyers’ privacy rights, since photos showing the layout and rooms of specific homes, along with the addresses of the homes, remain available on Zillow’s website long after the subject listing is bought.

Balduf added, “We’ve been very encouraged by the support we’ve received from the industry. The issue of usage rights goes well beyond VHT Studios; there are thousands of photographers shooting real estate photographs and even agents who shoot their own photographs, who all need to be assured that the photographs will be used properly.”

The Digital Media Licensing Association, the 60-year old copyright protection advocacy organization, is supporting VHT Studio’s efforts to protect the rights of real estate photographers and other industry professionals. Nancy Wolff, the DMLA’s outside counsel, noted that:

“In this digital world, some people believe content should be free. DMLA believes photographers and other creators should determine when and how their content is shared.”

The Digital Media Licensing Association and VHT Studios are joining efforts to increase awareness and to promote ethical business practices by actively advocating for copyright protections.

**About VHT Studios**  
VHT Studios unrivaled nationwide network of professional photographers and image specialists deliver photography and image management services to top real estate professionals looking to become even more successful. VHT Studios is a full-service partner to leading real estate agents, brokerages and businesses. The VHT Studios team delivers to real estate professionals their most powerful selling tools – high-quality photography and video – to ensure their properties get seen more, sell faster and at the best price. Based in Rosemont, Illinois, VHT Studios has helped more than 200,000 real estate professionals sell more than $200 billion in properties since the company’s founding in 1998. For more information, visit <http://www.vht.com/>, [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/VHTStudios), [LinkedIn](http://www.linkedin.com/company/VHT) or [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/VHT_Studios).