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Heirs of Legendary Mexican Entertainer Cantinflas in Legal Battle Over Cartoon Images

Attorney Richard Wolfe C. Wolfe files lawsuit on behalf of Cantinflas' nephew and a cartoonist

MIAMI (October 15, 2013) — Attorney, Richard C. Wolfe, of the Miami-based law firm of Wolfe Law Miami, has filed suit against the adopted son of Cantinflas, the late Mexican comic film actor, producer and screenwriter, over his plans to make a film using cartoon images of the star, in violation of a series of agreements he signed beginning in 2007.

Wolfe filed the lawsuit in a California federal court on behalf of artist Felipe de Jesus Martinez Ancona and a Florida based Production company Cantinflas, LLC owned by Ancona, and other relatives of Cantinflas who own the comics films and a Miami based filmmaker. The comic, whose real name was Mario Moreno Reyes. Martinez created cartoon images of Cantinflas for an animated series and book, and in 2009, Mario Arturo Moreno Ivanova, Cantinflas' adopted son, granted Martinez exclusive rights to the character to develop those projects.

But Wolfe alleges that Ivanova is trying to develop his own animated film using Martinez's images in violation of Ancona's copyrights and in violation of the numerous grant of exclusive rights. The suit claims that the defendants have gone public with their intentions, utilizing the Internet to seek private funding for their project at a conference in France in early October.

"There's no question that the legend's adoptive son has absolutely no regard for the written contracts that he and my client signed long ago," Wolfe said. "We have evidence taken from the Internet that clearly shows the defendants are in violation of the agreement and intend to use the cartoon images for their personal gain."

The lawsuit against Ivanova and the other defendants alleges breach of contract and copyright infringement, and asks the court to prevent the defendants from proceeding with their Cantinflas project.

Cantinflas appeared in more than 55 feature films. Charlie Chaplin once commented that Cantinflas was the best comedian alive, and indeed, he has been referred to as the "Charlie Chaplin of Mexico." Audiences in the United States likely best remember Cantinflas, who died in 1993, as Passepartout in the 1956 film *Around the World in 80 Days*, starring David Niven.

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*Attorneys at Wolfe Law Miami (www.wolfelawmiami) are leaders in business, sports, and entertainment law. Attorney **Richard C. Wolfe** was also a certified public accountant. He has been given the highest rating (AV) from Martindale-Hubbell. Wolfe is board-certified by the Florida Bar in the area of business litigation. In the area of film, Wolfe has represented film and TV producers in more than 35 feature films, including acquisition, business structure, production contracts, accounting and distribution, major and independent record companies, publishing companies, distribution companies, numerous artists and producers on transactions and litigation matter. He has negotiated in excess of 250 recording and publishing contracts on behalf of, or with many artists and record companies. Mr. Wolfe has been or is a member of the following organizations: Florida Film and Recording Institute (past president), Florida Film Producers Association, Florida Screenwriters Association, Florida Motion Picture & Television Association, National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and Entertainment Law Section of the Florida Bar (past chairman).*