

IMMEDIATE

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**ASHTON-TATE WINS SUMMARY JUDGEMENT
IN LAWSUIT AGAINST BRAVO TECHNOLOGIES**

**U.S. Federal District Court Declares Ashton-Tate
Sole Owner of Full Impact Presentation Spreadsheet**

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., April 10, 1989 -- A federal court ruled late last week that Ashton-Tate Corp. (NASDAQ: TATE) is the sole owner of the Full Impact presentation spreadsheet program for Apple Computer's Macintosh computer. The ruling is part of a summary judgement for Ashton-Tate in its action against Bravo Technologies, Inc., and Richard J. Ross, both of whom had made claims against Ashton-Tate for part ownership of Full Impact.

U.S. District Court Judge D. Lowell Jensen, Northern District of California, said in a 19-page order granting Ashton-Tate's motion that 1) Ashton-Tate owns all rights to Full Impact; 2) Full Impact did not infringe upon any rights belonging to Bravo or Ross; and 3) Ashton-Tate hasn't interfered with any contractual relationship in the process of developing Full Impact.

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On the eve of Full Impact's launch in mid-1988, Bravo and Ross approached Ashton-Tate and demanded payment for use of their technologies alleged to be incorporated into Full Impact. The claim was based upon a prior relationship Bravo and Ross had with Randy Wigginton, Ashton-Tate's primary developer of Full Impact. Ashton-Tate filed suit within days to challenge the claim. The court granted Ashton-Tate's motion for a summary judgement since both Bravo and Ross had failed to demonstrate "any genuine issue as to any material fact," court documents said.

"Ashton-Tate doesn't take lightly spurious claims against the ownership of any of our products," said Edward M. Esber, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of Ashton-Tate Corp. "We didn't hesitate to defend our rights then, nor will we hesitate to defend ourselves in the future."

Bravo and Ross claimed that Ashton-Tate had misappropriated trade secrets. The court granted Ashton-Tate's motion to dismiss this claim on the grounds that statutory time limits on such a claim had expired prior to the Bravo and Ross claim. However, the court added, "it appears that the defendants have also failed to state a valid claim on the merits of the action."

Bravo and Ross also claimed that Full Impact represented a "joint work" between themselves and Wigginton and Ashton-Tate. The court rejected this claim, concluding that Full Impact was not a joint work.

"Bravo's and Ross's claim to Full Impact was without any merit and was an attempt to add confusion to the market right at the time of Full Impact's launch," said Stephen Tropp, the lead

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lawyer at Ashton-Tate on the lawsuit. "Ashton-Tate is prepared to meet by any means necessary all frivolous attempts to build reputations through the courts."

"What is unusual about this lawsuit is that the publisher of the product, Ashton-Tate, filed suit to clarify its title," said Gary Reback, a partner in Fenwick, Davis & West, the Palo Alto-based law firm which litigated the action for Ashton-Tate. "In the future, companies will increasingly be required to defend their products and interfaces against spurious claims of ownership."

Based in Torrance, Calif., Ashton-Tate markets best-selling microcomputer business applications software for DOS, OS/2 and Macintosh operating systems. Products are available in six major categories: database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support software, spreadsheets, graphics and desktop publishing. Tate Publishing offers a variety of software applications, tools and utilities under the Tate Publishing Software family, as well as a library of bestselling computer hardware and software related books and periodicals. Ashton-Tate also markets a comprehensive line of service and support programs for individuals, corporations and government agencies.

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R Ashton-Tate is a registered trademark of Ashton-Tate Corporation.

TM Full Impact is a trademark of Ashton-Tate Corporation