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## ASHTON-TATE RESPONDS TO RULING IN COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT CASE

TORRANCE, Calif., Dec. 13 -- In response to a Dec. 12 ruling by U.S. District Judge Terrence Hatter Jr. regarding Ashton-Tate's copyright infringement lawsuit against Fox Software, Inc., Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) today issued the following statement:

We were extremely surprised by yesterday's ruling. We were expecting the judge to hold a hearing as scheduled next Monday, Dec. 17, regarding our motion for summary judgment.

We believe the court's ruling was in error, and we are confident that our copyrights are valid. No final judgment has been entered by the court, and we plan immediately to ask the court to reconsider its ruling. If that is denied, we will immediately appeal the decision.

This ruling does not address the substantive legal issues of look and feel, language protection, or the propriety of copying those elements of software programs.

There are a few key reasons why we believe the ruling is in error and will be reversed:

There was absolutely no intention to mislead anyone by our copyright applications. The attorney who filed the original application in the early 1980s has testified in depositions that he did not mention JPLDIS in the application simply because he had never heard of it. In addition, we've shown through filing supplemental applications that the copyright office would still have issued the registration, even if we had originally mentioned JPLDIS.

A second point is that Fox and other companies were never prejudiced by the way in which we filled out our application. That is, it did not affect in any way how Fox or other companies developed their products.

Finally, these are questions of fact about people's intentions that cannot be decided without a trial.