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Evil Angel porn purveyors still in h*** of a legal bind

John Stagliano is not your typical porn entrepreneur, in some respects. The head of Evil Angel Productions may deliver such films as the "Slutty and Sluttier" series, but he also maintains a political presence through contributions to the likes of the libertarian-minded Cato Institute.

But in other ways, Stagliano is very much typical. This includes facing the threat of criminal prosecution for violating obscenity statutes.

Bad news, then, for Stagliano with a federal judge's decision Feb. 19 not to dismiss obscenity charges. The [24-page decision](#) by U.S. District Judge Richard Leon rejected Stagliano's constitutional challenge to the obscenity statutes.

The indictment identified several films and film clips that FBI agents obtained from Evil Angel Productions, including "Milk Nymphos" and "Fetish Fanatic Chapter 5." Judge Leon states, delicately:

"Descriptions of the films are not relevant at this stage, of course, because it is the jury's province to determine whether those films are actually obscene."

Bummer.

Stagliano raised substantive, intriguing challenges to the obscenity laws, but Judge Leon was not impressed, dismissing the "gold-toned constitutional concoction" and likening the arguments to the work conjured by "alchemists of old." For instance, the judge did not buy the argument that the Supreme Court's recognition of a "liberty interest" in sexual privacy, as discussed in the Lawrence v. Texas case concerning homosexual sodomy, extended to the private consumption of pornography.

The criminal case continues.

Posted by Mike Doyle at 09:19 AM | [Permalink](#)
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"Suits & Sentences" is a legal affairs blog written by Michael Doyle, a reporter for [McClatchy's Washington Bureau](#). He was a Knight Journalism Fellow at Yale Law School, where he earned a Master of Studies in Law; he also earned a Masters in Government from The Johns Hopkins University with a thesis on the Freedom of Information Act. He teaches journalism as an adjunct instructor at The George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs.



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