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# Tardigrades, CBS Attorneys Work Out Discovery Dispute

***CBS lawyers' delays are making it tough to find connections between Discovery creators and videogame***

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By  [Carlos Pedraza](#)

Lawyers in the Tardigrades lawsuit appeared to have resolved their disagreements by the March 8 deadline set by U.S. District Judge Lorna G. Schofield.

## Discovery Dispute



Attorneys for game developer Anas Abdin had complained to Schofield that CBS lawyers were not complying with her order to allow Abdin’s lawyers to gather evidence.

Abdin seeks a connection between *Star Trek: Discovery* and his videogame on the Steam platform. He alleges *Discovery*’s creators must have stolen ideas from Tardigrades in 2015.

Meanwhile the lawyers on both sides asked the judge to cancel the March 12 status report she wanted.

## Looming Deadline

Faced with a looming March 19 deadline for game developer Anas Abdin to [show a connection](#) between *Star Trek: Discovery*’s creators and the videogame from which he says they stole his ideas, his lawyer asked the judge to intervene.



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In that February 27, 2019, letter to Schofield, attorney John Johnson accused defendant CBS’ lawyers of stalling in [turning over evidence](#) to meet that deadline.

**See also:** [Judge Wants Evidence Discovery Creators Saw Game and Copyright Lawsuit Names Discovery Writer as Possible Link](#)

## Judge Admonishes Lawyers

Schofield admonished all the lawyers to follow her court’s rules: *You better confer in good faith over discovery disputes.*

In a March 4 statement, Schofield ordered them to talk it out by March 6. If that didn’t work then CBS was to give her a written explanation by March 8.



**READ THE LETTER** from Tardigrades attorney



John Johnson to the judge asking her to [intervene](#) in CBS stalling tactics.

**Attachments:**

- [Email exchange](#) between the two lawyers.
- What the plaintiffs are [looking for](#).

## The bottom line

CBS believes Abdin's lawyers are going on a fishing expedition in a desperate attempt to show *Discovery's* creators stole from the game developer. Abdin's attorney says the judge allowed them to investigate and has told CBS it had better [cough up the goods](#).



**Judge Lorna G. Schofield**

## Judge Orders Meeting

Either way, Schofield ordered the attorneys to appear before her on March 12 to report on the case status.

- **Meanwhile, a motion by CBS** to [dismiss the case](#) remained pending.


## Discovery Dispute

Abdin's lawyers were trying to find CBS employees who were also members of the Steam platform who also developed *Discovery*, and who also [voted in Steam's Greenlight](#) program for his Tardigrades game.

- **CBS objections:** In a March 1 letter, Abdin lawyer John Johnson complains CBS' attorneys have objected to the subpoena he wants to serve on [Steam's owner](#), Valve Corp. CBS says many employees about whom Johnson inquires are no longer employed by CBS.
- **CBS had agreed** to provide evidence but hadn't by the agreed-upon date, according to emails Johnson filed in court.

## Motion to Compel Discovery

Johnson hoped the judge would force CBS to provide the evidence he wanted:

- **IP addresses:** Johnson wanted Information about IP addresses of various CBS-owned domains.
- **Connections to Steam:** He wanted Steam user account information about anyone involved in developing or producing *Discovery*, as well as accounts registered by anyone from CBS Broadcasting, All Access, Netflix, Living Dead Guy Productions, Secret Hideout, Roddenberry Entertainment or Pinewood Toronto Studios.
- **Steam subpoena:** From Steam, Johnson hoped to obtain the voting record, and user information about anyone involved in developing or producing *Discovery* who **voted** on the Tardigrades game.
- **Discovery creators and staff** Johnson was interested in included Bryan Fuller, Alex Kurtzman, Nicholas Meyer, Aaron Harberts, Akiva Goldsman, [Erika Lippoldt](#), Gretchen J. Berg, John Eaves, Jonathan Frakes, Kirsten Beyer, Olatunde Osunsanmi, Rod Roddenberry and Trevor Roth. More are listed in court documents. 

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### Keywords

[Tardigrades lawsuit](#), [Star Trek Discovery](#), [copyright](#), [infringement](#)

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