



Fact Sheet



**CCLI**®

**CCLI:**

It Started With a Lawsuit



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# CCLI: It Started with a Lawsuit

Back in 1984, a church music lawsuit made national headlines. The archdiocese of Chicago was sued by a church music publisher for illegally photocopying sheet music. The lawsuit was just over \$3 million and it was settled out-of-court for a little more than \$190,000. Obviously this news sent shock waves through churches across the country.

CCLI's founder, Howard Rachinski, was a music pastor at the time for a fairly large church in Portland, Oregon, USA. That next day, the Senior Pastor dropped a copy of the morning paper on Howard's desk, and asked him what copying activities their church music department was doing for which they could be liable. Howard studied the copyright law, pinpointed a number of typical church music copying activities that could infringe on the law, and then developed the concept of a blanket license to cover these activities. The idea took off. It started with local publishers, songwriters and churches around the Pacific Northwest and quickly spread across the country and around the world.

Today, CCLI covers over 250,000 churches and ministries in over 30 countries. And it all started with a lawsuit.



**250k+**  
Churches and Ministries  
Covered by CCLI



**30+**  
Countries



**500k+**  
Songs Represented  
by CCLI



**3,000+**  
Song Owners