CoStar Sues Zillow For Rampant Copyright Infringement

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CoStar sues Zillow for publishing more than 46,000 of CoStar's copyrighted photographs on Zillow.com and its partner sites, rendering Zillow potentially liable for more than a billion dollars in damages

NEW YORK--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jul. 30, 2025-- CoStar Group, Inc. (NASDAQ: CSGP), a global leader in commercial real estate information, analytics, online marketplaces and 3D digital twin technology, filed a lawsuit in New York federal court today alleging rampant copyright infringement by Zillow. The infringement could hardly be more brazen. The complaint shows that Zillow is unlawfully exploiting tens of thousands of CoStar Group's watermarked photographs on its sites and on Redfin and Realtor.com, making this one of the largest, if not the largest, image infringement cases in history.

Since its founding, CoStar Group has invested billions of dollars in creating the most comprehensive database of real estate information. As part of its efforts, CoStar Group has built the world's largest library of real estate photographs. Over decades, CoStar Group has employed or hired thousands of professional photographers who have created millions of real estate images, which are owned and copyrighted by CoStar Group. CoStar Group's team of dedicated architectural photographers takes, and the company copyrights, over two million original real estate photos annually.

Rather than invest in its own website, people, and intellectual property, Zillow has engaged in rampant copyright infringement. Zillow has published more than 46,000 CoStar Group images, many with the distinctive CoStar watermark, displaying those images more than 250,000 times on Zillow alone. Zillow's mass infringement is compounded by Zillow's recent partnerships with its purported competitors, Redfin and Realtor.com, under which Zillow is the sole provider of multifamily listings on all three websites. Zillow is amplifying its infringement by publishing CoStar's images on both Redfin and Realtor.com.

There is no question that Zillow's misconduct is deliberate. Zillow is a repeat offender that has been found to infringe images before: the listings platform had to pay millions of dollars after a jury found Zillow liable for copyright infringement claims brought by real estate photography studio VHT, Inc.

Andy Florance, CoStar's Founder and CEO, said: "Zillow's theft of tens of thousands of CoStar Group's copyrighted photographs is nothing short of outrageous. Zillow is profiting from decades of CoStar Group work and the billions of dollars we have invested. Even worse, Zillow is magnifying its infringement on Redfin and Realtor.com. If these other sites do not immediately remove our images, we will have no choice but to sue them as well. We are committed to stopping this systematic infringement and holding the wrongdoers to account."

About CoStar Group

CoStar Group (NASDAQ: CSGP) is a global leader in commercial real estate information, analytics, online marketplaces, and 3D digital twin technology. Founded in 1986, CoStar Group is dedicated to digitizing the world's real estate, empowering all people to discover properties, insights, and connections that improve their businesses and lives.

CoStar Group's major brands include CoStar, a leading global provider of commercial real estate data, analytics, and news; LoopNet, the most trafficked commercial real estate marketplace; Apartments.com, the leading platform for apartment rentals; and Homes.com, the fastest-growing residential real estate marketplace. CoStar Group's industry-leading brands also include Matterport, a leading spatial data company whose platform turns buildings into data to make every space more valuable and accessible, STR, a global leader in hospitality data and benchmarking, Ten-X, an online platform for commercial real estate auctions and negotiated bids and OnTheMarket, a leading residential property portal in the United Kingdom.

CoStar Group's websites attracted over 141 million average monthly unique visitors in the second quarter of 2025, serving clients around the world. Headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, CoStar Group is committed to transforming the real estate industry through innovative technology and comprehensive market intelligence. From time to time, we plan to utilize our corporate website as a channel of distribution for material company information. For more information, visit CoStarGroup.com.

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