

CENTRE FOR ADR & PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

PROPOSITION

**HARMONY AMIDST
DISSONANCE**

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS-I



**HIMACHAL PRADESH NATIONAL LAW
UNIVERSITY, SHIMLA
16 MILES, SHIMLA-MANDI NATIONAL
HIGHWAY, GHANDAL, DISTT. SHIMLA,
HP-171014**

HARMONY AMIDST DISSONANCE

BACKGROUND

1. Saylor Delmore, a prodigious singer and songwriter from Westeros, captured the hearts of millions worldwide with her enchanting melodies and soulful lyrics. Her musical journey began at the tender age of 14, and by 2005, she had signed a contract with "Melody Records", to pave her way into the realm of professional indie musicians.
2. Under "Melody Records," Saylor released six studio albums, each a masterpiece in its own right - "Saylor Delmore," "Courage," "Say It," "Yellow," "1989," and "Honor" - enchanting fans across the globe with crowd favorites like "You Are Mine," "Story of Love," "Getting back together," and "See what I did." Her albums garnered immense success, catapulting her to the top of the charts and making her the most streamed artist for consecutive years. Millions of her albums were sold worldwide, and her fame knew no bounds.
3. Founded by the visionary Mike Krochett in 2005, "Melody Records" was an Westerosian independent record label based in Dorne and distributed by Global Music Group. Krochett discovered Saylor's budding talent during a local event in Dorne, leading to their promising collaboration. Saylor's father Joshua, owned a 5% stake in "Melody Records," while Krochett held a majority share of 60%.
4. In 2010, Saylor achieved a groundbreaking milestone for "Melody Records" by becoming the first artist to win a Grammy. However, after her contract with "Melody Records" expired in 2018 she refused to renew the contract and parted ways with the label.

DISPUTE

5. Trouble arose in 2019 when news broke that Balwant Chopra had acquired "Melody Records" from Krochett for a staggering \$300 million, with funding from private equity firms. Chopra now held the rights to all the masters, music videos, and artworks copyrighted by "Melody Records," including those of Saylor's first six studio albums. This acquisition led to a series of disagreements and disputes between Saylor and her former label.

SAYLOR'S VERSION

6. Saylor had gotten a hunch that Balwant Chopra would be acquiring Melody Records soon and thus left the record label and was unwilling to renew her contract. She did not trust Balwant as he was the manager of Jafar East, a controversial musician from Harrenhal with whom Saylor had bitter relations. East fraudulently used Saylor's provocative pictures in his music video to gain fame. Upon Saylor expressing her disdain for such an act, Jafar released a tampered recording of a phone call with her wherein it seemed as though she agreed to the music video being released. During this entire altercation Balwant Chopra supported Jafar firmly. Another issue was that Krochett had failed to inform Saylor of the deal with Balwant, an untrustworthy party who would now own her masters upon acquisition of the company.

7. According to Saylor, her offer to buy her previous six albums was only met by a chance to earn the ownership of masters back one record at a time, so that she would have to release an entirely new album through Melody records in order to get back the masters to just one of her old albums. This offer was unacceptable to her because she knew that Krochett was going to sell Melody Records soon — “I knew once I signed that contract, Mike Krokett would sell the label, thereby selling me and my future,” she wrote in her Instagram post — and she didn’t want to commit her future career to an untrustworthy party. Saylor also alleged that "Melody Records" blocked her from using her music for the 2019 Indian Music Awards Ceremony and her documentary, "Miss Indiana" (2020). To her dismay, the label released "Hallucinations," an unreleased work by Saylor, without her consent.

MELODY'S VERSION

8. However, Mike responded to these allegations via a post on their official website in which he included screencaps of a negotiation document to back himself up. Per Mike Krochett, the deal they were discussing would have meant that Saylor would take control of her masters as soon as she signed the contract, and in exchange, she would agree to stay at Melody Records for another period of several years. In the screenshot that he posted, Saylor’s team has proposed seven years, and Melody Records has countered with ten years.

9. Mike also took issue with Saylor’s claim that he blindsided her with news of the sale. According to him, Joshua, was a shareholder in Melody Records and was apprised of the sale. Further, her lawyers and executives were present on the shareholder calls, during which the deal to sell Melody Records was finalized.

STATUS QUO

10. In response, she declared her intent to re-record the six albums to regain complete ownership and sought legal action against the label for exploiting her work without permission. This announcement was met with an offer by a well-established global record label “Future Records”, to re-record her old songs in collaboration with them, wherein the masters would remain with Delmore herself, with the label profiting out of the new versions.

11. Amidst the discord and media frenzy, Melody Records was grappling with financial losses due to Saylor's refusal to renew her contract. The highly publicized dispute between Saylor and Melody Records led to toxic behavior showcased by Saylor’s fanbase, leading to online harassment of various artists associated with the record label, leading to further damage to reputation and lesser profits. Fan bullying now poses a threat to employees and their families as well.

12. Seeking a way to navigate the tangled web of conflicts, Balwant Chopra's counsel advised pursuing mediation and invited Saylor Delmore to the negotiation table. The hope was to find a middle ground and arrive at a mutually beneficial resolution that could salvage the reputation of "Melody Records" and provide Saylor with rightful control over her artistic creations. The stage was set for a mediation session that could harmonize the divergent interests of both parties and pave the way for a new chapter in their entwined journey.