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## Batman Director Chris Nolan Sues His Agencies To Determine Their Commission

Lawsuit filed by Nolan, his producer wife and company says his former agency CAA and current reps at WME need to decide between them who gets paid a commission on "The Dark Knight Rises" and other projects.

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Getty Images

The *Dark Knight Rises* director Christopher Nolan, his producer wife Emma Thomas Nolan and their company Syncopy filed suit Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court against their former agency CAA and their current agency William Morris Endeavor to determine who should receive commissions for their work.

### Read the Complain Here

Nolan left CAA earlier this year to follow his agent Dan Aloni to WME. According to the suit, he has since been told by both agencies that he needs to pay their commissions on the millions he and his wife have made from the mega-hit movie *The Dark Knight Rises*.

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There is much at stake. The Nolans are known to have made a rich deal with Warner Bros. thanks to the success of their earlier movies. *The Dark Knight Rises* has grossed more than \$433 million domestically and \$574 million in international markets for a total gross of just over \$1 billion.

The suit does not specify what percentage the agents are owed but it is probably less than the standard 10 percent. Even so, that will be a significant amount of money.

The suit also seeks back the cost of filing the lawsuit.

### PHOTOS: Batman Through the Years: Christian Bale, George Clooney and Others Who've Played the Dark Knight

The back-story here is tied to the February 2012 parting of Aloni and CAA, where he had been an agent since 2005. CAA reportedly fired Aloni, who then joined WME and took many of his high-profile clients with him. Besides Nolan those include **Jim Carrey**, **Mike Myers**, **Jay Roach**, **Tom Shadyac**, **Neal Moritz**, **Jonathan Mostow** and **David Goyer**.

The Nolans joined Aloni at CAA in March. After *Dark Knight Rises* came out in July, the tragic shooting occurred in Aurora, Colorado which led to a lot of calls to Nolan's agency and discussions about strategy. As a result, WME feels it should be compensated.

The suit was filed on behalf of the Nolans by attorneys **Bryan Freedman** and **Brian Turnauer** of Freedman & Taitelman in Century City. That firm declined comment, as did representatives for CAA and WME.