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AXANAR SUIT SPURS CBS RESTRICTIONS ON FAN PRODUCTIONS

## Fan Film Guidelines

#3

STORY OF THE YEAR

### Peters Failed to Mobilize Producers

In 2016, for the first time, fan productions gained the safety of making films without fear of copyright litigation, thanks to guidelines published by CBS in June 2016. But that safety came at a cost: Restrictions on length, crowdfunding and more. **Alec Peters** had tried to stave off such restrictions by trying to rally other fan productions behind his own proposed guidelines. That backfired, and most fan productions disavowed Axanar.

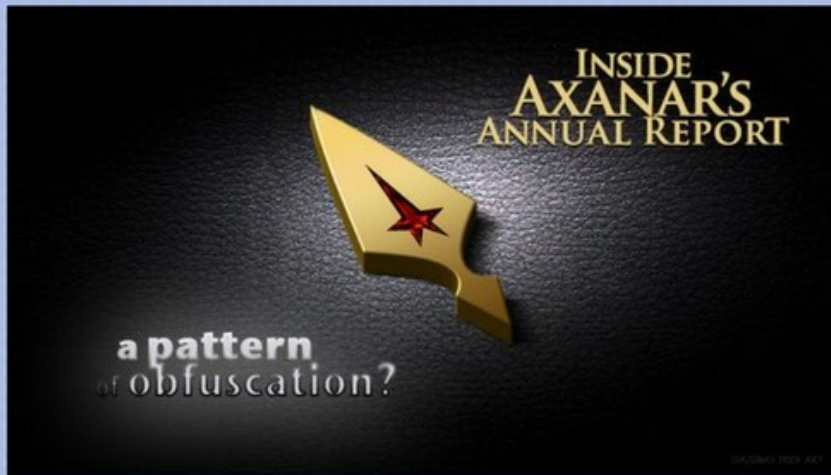
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STORY OF THE YEAR

AXANAR RAISED AND SPENT \$1.4 MILLION, ALL WITH NO MOVIE

## Axanar is Broke

### Annual Report, Court Documents Tell Story



Axanar's finances have long been a point of contention since the release of its 2015 annual report, which, in an **AxaMonitor** analysis, raised red flags about **Alec Peters'** expenditures.

Then, in leaked messages from May 2015, Peters privately admitted Axanar was out of cash, while his spokesman continued to say publicly Peters couldn't know his own company's financial status because an accountant was preparing comprehensive reports.

But court documents showed no accountant had been working at that time and Axanar's financials weren't organized until months later when submitted to the court as part of the lawsuit. That report showed all \$1.4 million Peters raised for Axanar was gone – and then some.

SETTLEMENT TALKS FIZZLE AMIDST DISCOVERY DISPUTES

## Lawsuit Moves to Trial

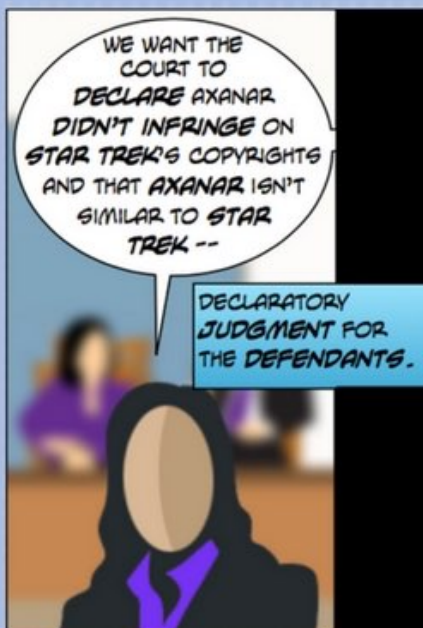
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STORY OF THE YEAR

### Fits and Starts Characterize Path to Trial

The road to Axanar's scheduled January 31, 2017, copyright infringement trial was a bumpy one. The defense's first motion to dismiss was made moot by an amended complaint from the plaintiffs. Their second dismissal motion was roundly rejected by U.S. District Judge **R. Gary Klausner**. Despite a potential settlement thanks to the intervention by Star Trek directors J.J. Abrams and Justin Lin, Axanar replied to the suit by countersuing CBS and Paramount.

Discovery revealed new details about **Alec Peters'** management of Axanar, including his apparent failure to fully disclose all the emails subpoenaed by the plaintiffs. The year wound up with each side seeking a summary judgment from the judge while asking for key evidence to be excluded.



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## Keywords

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Last update: **2009/05/26 00:24**

