LEGAL KITTY™ CHEAT SHEET

# Your Voice, Your Face

*What protects your voice and face from AI copies now, and what's still a bill.*

## KEY PRINCIPLES

1 **Three tools, three jobs.**
Trademark protects a brand signal. Copyright protects your recordings and writing, not your voice or face. State publicity law covers commercial use of you.

2 **A sound mark isn't a clone shield.**
A sound registers only if it works as a brand signal (TMEP §1202.15). Most catchphrase filings never get that far.

3 **State law is your real protection today.**
California's §3344 names voice; from 2027 that includes a digital replica. Tennessee's ELVIS Act covers real or simulated voice, and tool-makers.

4 **NO FAKES is not law.**
S.4591 cleared Senate Judiciary in June 2026. On September 30, Sen. Cruz objected to fast-track passage. That stopped the shortcut, not the bill.

## KEY EXAMPLES

Real cases and filings, from the guide

*Midler v. Ford*
9th Cir. 1988

Deliberately imitating a famous singer's voice to sell cars was actionable. §3344 didn't fit: the voice wasn't hers.

**FOR YOU** **"We used a sound-alike" isn't a defense.**

*NBC's chimes*
USPTO sound mark

Three notes that tell you the network. That's a brand signal.

**FOR YOU** **A catchphrase may justify a mark. Most don't.**

*Cal. Labor Code §927*
In effect Jan. 1, 2025

A vague clause letting a replica replace your in-person work fails without a lawyer or union behind it.

**FOR YOU** **Ask how, exactly, the replica will be used.**

© 2026 Legal Kitty™. All rights reserved.

KEY CLAUSES

# Red flag, green flag

*Push back on the red. Ask for the green.*

| | RED FLAG · PUSH BACK | GREEN FLAG · ASK FOR |
|---|---|---|
| AI CLAUSE | No AI or replica terms at all | No replica, clone or training without consent |
| GRANT | “Any media now known or hereafter devised” | Listed media, a fee and an end date |
| TRAINING | Your content usable to “train” models | Training only with separate consent and pay |
| TERM | “Perpetual” | A stated end date |
| PAY | One fee covers every synthetic use | Additional compensation for each use |
| PROOF | No dated originals of your voice | Dated original recordings kept on file |

Condensed from the VOICEPRINT guide. Teaching examples, not forms.

GO DEEPER

VOICEPRINT, the free web guide to your voice and face.
Free at legalkitty.com/guides

Full guide: DM **VOICEPRINT**
This sheet: DM **MYVOICE**

*Don’t sign it till you read it.*

© 2026 Legal Kitty™. All rights reserved.



Legal Kitty™