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# LSAT prep courses cause copyright stirs

By [Nhu Le](#)

When Washington, D.C. resident Dawn Joyce went to the first session of her Law School Admission prep course, she was greeted with a crowd of protesters. They were handing out pamphlets informing students that the class was not taught by TestMasters, a California company. Instead, they told her she was from Test Masters, a company based in Houston.

The two companies are in continuing legal battles over nationwide trademarks.

Joyce said that she confused Test Masters with TestMasters. Now she's one of roughly 20 students who have filed lawsuits against the Houston-based company for monetary compensation. They are accusing the company of misleading them.

The California-based Test-Masters is run by Robin Singh, the world record holder of 12 perfect LSATs. Singh's company operates under the name TestMasters in 49 out of 50 states. Because of copyright issues, Singh's company is called Score Perfect in Texas. Singh said all course instructors have scored in the 99th percentile on the LSATs administered. Students in her program receive more than 80 hours of instruction, and instructional materials are original to the course.

The Houston company began as an SAT prep course in 1991 and only operated in Texas, but in the years since, it has branched out its LSAT prep course nationwide, excluding California. The company guarantees a 10-point increase, or the student can retake the course for free. The company also assures students that its instructors have scored in the 170s out of a possible 180.

Roger Israni, the owner and president of the Houston Test Masters, said his company offers three books with a total of 2,000 pages. The course materials are developed by a professional staff and sold commercially.

Students who have taken the Houston-based Test Masters course have complained that the company does not meet their needs.

Shanda Wyse, manager for the Texas Princeton Review in Austin, said she has had unsatisfied students in her program who have taken a course from the Houston-based company.

Wyse said the students complained about the Houston Test Masters' course materials, which they said were photocopied and superficial.

"The instruction was not in-depth enough to prepare them for the LSAT," she said.

Frequent prep course cancellations and instructors without enough training are also common complaints against Houston Test Masters.

Israni said his company requires all of his instructors to take an exam either administered by the I Admission Council or one given by his company. He says they reserve the right to cancel their pers scores. Israni said that each of his instructors specializes in one section of the exam.

Singh said the Houston company is impersonating his company and purposely misleading students

Much of the confusion occurs when students type in the domain [www.testmasters.com](http://www.testmasters.com), which is ow Houston-based company. Students looking for Singh's company mistakenly sign up for the Housto company, Singh said. Singh's domain is [www.testmasters.net](http://www.testmasters.net) or [www.testmasters180.com](http://www.testmasters180.com).

Singh originally won a jury trial for trademark rights to the TestMasters name in February 2001, Israni appealed the case and won because there was insufficient evidence that Singh's company wa known enough for people to specifically seek out the TestMaster's logo.

Many companies make new students sign contracts, but usually these involve redistributing course and refunds. Students that sign up for a Houston-based Test Masters course must agree to an addi stipulation, waiving "any rights to claim confusion or misrepresentation in any way" about the cor non-affiliation with Singh's company.

The Houston-based company lists 601 Colorado St. as its Austin location, which is also the address Henry Hall, an administrative building for the UT System.

Officials in the building said they had never heard about the Houston-based Test Masters.

According to Israni, the company doesn't have actual locations anywhere besides Houston; they ju offices. He did not have specific knowledge about the Colorado Street address listed on the Web sit

The student newspapers at colleges such as Syracuse University, Oklahoma University and Univer Nevada, Las Vegas also reported similar incidents of confusing the two testing companies at their c



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