

# VONDRAN LEGAL® ADVISORY

## June 2026 [boxing piracy]



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**BOXING & SOCCER PIRACY LAWYER**

J&J Sports Production

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### UFC FREEDOM 250 AT THE WHITE HOUSE

“FREE” FOR FANS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN FREE FOR BARS, RESTAURANTS, AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

By **Attorney Steve®** | **Vondran Legal®**

As excitement builds for the upcoming **UFC Freedom 250** event scheduled to take place on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, D.C., Vondran Legal is issuing this advisory to bars, restaurants, taverns, sports lounges, cigar lounges, casinos, barber shops, and other business owners who may be considering showing the fight to patrons.

Because this historic UFC event is being heavily promoted as a “free” event for consumers, some business owners may mistakenly assume they can lawfully broadcast the event inside their establishments without obtaining a commercial license.

**That assumption could lead to significant legal exposure.**

Vondran Legal Advisory June 4, 2026. Feel free to share this advisory on your social media.

The fact that a sporting event is available to residential viewers at no charge does not automatically grant commercial establishments the right to publicly exhibit the event to customers and patrons.

**Before You Show UFC Freedom 250 at your establishment, it would be wise to first Verify Your Commercial Broadcast Rights. This requires the payment of the applicable fee which is based on occupancy.**

Many sports promoters and distributors separate broadcast rights into two distinct categories:

### **Residential Viewing Rights**

These rights permit private viewing within a residence or household.

### **Commercial Exhibition Rights**

These rights permit public exhibition within:

- Bars
- Restaurants
- Taverns
- Sports lounges
- Nightclubs
- Cigar lounges
- Casinos
- Barber shops
- Hotels
- Other commercial establishments

A residential stream, cable subscription, satellite package, or consumer viewing option generally does not include the right to publicly display the event within a business setting.

Businesses should never assume that because an event is “free” for home viewing, it is also free for commercial exhibition.

## **Featured Event Overview: UFC Freedom 250**

**Date:** June 14, 2026

**Location:** South Lawn of the White House Washington, D.C.

**Event Highlights:** UFC Freedom 250 is being promoted as one of the largest combat sports events in history. Reports indicate that the event will be available to consumers without a traditional pay-per-view charge and that thousands of fans may attend free public viewing opportunities in Washington, D.C.

This unique promotional model creates a heightened risk that business owners may incorrectly believe they can legally exhibit the event inside their establishments without obtaining commercial authorization.

## **Announced Fight Card**

Main Event

**Ilia Topuria vs. Justin Gaethje** UFC Lightweight Championship Unification Bout

Co-Main Event

**Alex Pereira vs. Ciryl Gane** Interim UFC Heavyweight Championship Bout

Additional Featured Bouts

- Sean O'Malley vs. Aiemann Zahabi
- Mauricio Ruffy vs. Michael Chandler
- Bo Nickal vs. Kyle Daukaus
- Diego Lopes vs. Steve Garcia
- Derrick Lewis vs. Josh Hokit

As with all major combat sports events, fight cards remain subject to change.

## **Joe Hand Promotions and Commercial Broadcast Rights**

Business owners should be aware that **Joe Hand Promotions** has long been one of the nation's leading distributors of commercial exhibition rights for major boxing, MMA, UFC, wrestling, and other premium sporting events.

When Joe Hand Promotions acquires commercial distribution rights to an event, establishments seeking to legally show the event to patrons typically must obtain a commercial sublicense.

Accordingly, before showing UFC Freedom 250, business owners should carefully review whether commercial licensing rights are required and whether Joe Hand Promotions or another authorized distributor controls those rights.

## **Enforcement Efforts Are Real**

One of the most common misconceptions among business owners is that unauthorized broadcasts are unlikely to be detected. Historically, enforcement efforts have proven otherwise.

According to numerous federal court filings over the years, Joe Hand Promotions has actively protected its commercial distribution rights through investigations and litigation against establishments accused of unlawfully exhibiting protected sporting events.

Investigations may include:

- Photographs of televisions displaying the event
- Video recordings
- Patron head counts
- Occupancy estimates
- Documentation of the number of screens displaying the event
- Identification of business ownership and management

Such evidence may later be used in support of a federal lawsuit.

## Potential Liability for Unauthorized Broadcasts

Businesses accused of unlawfully exhibiting protected sporting events may face claims under federal communications statutes, including:

### 47 U.S.C. § 553

Unauthorized reception of cable communications.

### 47 U.S.C. § 605

Unauthorized interception or publication of satellite or radio communications.

Depending upon the circumstances, plaintiffs may seek:

- Statutory damages (up to \$10,000)
- Enhanced damages for some violations (up to \$100,000)
- Attorney's fees
- Court costs
- Injunctive relief

In many cases, the cost of obtaining a proper commercial license is substantially less than the potential cost of defending a federal lawsuit.

## Common Mistake: Using a Personal Streaming Account

Another recurring issue arises when employees or managers use:

- Personal streaming subscriptions
- Residential cable accounts
- Home satellite services
- Consumer viewing applications

to display sporting events inside a commercial establishment.

**Attorney Steve® Tip:** Even when a residential subscription has been lawfully purchased, the public exhibition of the event within a business may violate licensing restrictions and potentially expose the establishment to legal liability.

## **Vondran General Legal Recommendations**

Before broadcasting UFC Freedom 250—or any major sporting event—business owners should:

### ***1. Verify Whether Commercial Licensing Is Required (usually they will be)***

Do not assume that a free residential stream includes commercial exhibition rights.

### ***2. Identify the Authorized Commercial Distributor***

Determine whether Joe Hand Promotions or another rights holder controls commercial exhibition rights. Other players in this area include G&G Closed Circuit TV and Innovative Sports Management.

### ***3. Obtain the Appropriate Commercial License***

Secure all necessary permissions before the event begins.

### ***4. Retain Documentation***

Maintain copies of invoices, licenses, and proof of authorization.

### ***5. Train Staff***

Ensure employees understand that personal accounts and residential subscriptions generally should not be used for commercial exhibition purposes.

## **Attorney Steve® Closing Thoughts**

The upcoming UFC Freedom 250 event is generating tremendous excitement across the country. However, the event's unique marketing as a "free" viewing experience may create confusion regarding commercial exhibition rights.

For business owners, the safest course of action is simple:

**When in doubt, verify your commercial broadcast rights before showing the fight.**

A few minutes spent confirming licensing requirements may help avoid costly legal disputes later.

## **Need Help with a Joe Hand Promotions Claim?**

If your business has received:

- A demand letter
- A settlement demand
- A preservation notice
- A federal lawsuit
- A claim involving an alleged unauthorized fight broadcast

Vondran Legal may be able to assist. Call us at (877) 276-5084 or visit us on the web at [BoxingPiracy.com](http://BoxingPiracy.com)

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Protecting Businesses. Defending Rights. Solving Problems.

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