Last year, Kramer scored a victory in an almost seven-year copyright infringement battle that pitted the Football Association Premier League Limited and others against his client, Google Inc.

In that case, U.S. District Judge Louis Stanton of the Southern District of New York denied a motion to certify a class of copyright owners who claimed that their works had been posted on Google-owned YouTube without their consent. Football Association Premier League Limited, et al., v. YouTube Inc., et al., 07-03582 (S.D. N.Y., filed May 4, 2007).

The judge called the case “a Frankenstein monster masquerading as a class action,” Kramer said. “He recognized that there were so many different players, claims and issues that, while the plaintiffs could try to cobble them together into a Frankenstein, it would have no business proceeding as a class action.” Kramer added, “Judge Stanton issued a very well-reasoned opinion that I think will be cited for a long time by copyright defendants to resist the type of overreaching we saw in our case.”

The plaintiffs since have seen their claims dismissed with prejudice, Kramer said, “and have nothing to show for the lengthy lawsuit.” For a time, the Premier League case ran parallel with the $1 billion copyright lawsuit filed by Viacom International against Google and YouTube. Viacom International Inc., et al, v. YouTube Inc., et al., 07-02103-LLS (S.D.N.Y., filed March 13, 2007).

In April 2013, Stanton granted Google’s motion for summary judgment in that case, ruling that YouTube is protected by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act’s “safe harbor.” Last month, Viacom dismissed its appeal, bringing an end to the long-running litigation. “The dismissal leaves intact Stanton’s decision, which, along with the prior opinions in the case, will have significant ramifications for the online world,” Kramer said.

— Pat Broderick