

# Facebook Co-Founder Sued by ConnectU.com

Anonymous

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## ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

In response, Facebook filed a petition with the court that the suit be dismissed, but federal Judge Douglass Woodlock put off a decision by giving ConnectU until Aug. 8 to provide more specifics against [Mark Zuckerberg] and other Facebook founders.

ConnectU founders said they were shocked when Zuckerberg stated The-Facebook. com in February 2004 and they filed a cease-and-desist request six days later. They hired a developer and introduced ConnectU May 1, 2004. "But it was too late," [Cameron Winklevoss] said. "Facebook's foothold and first mover advantage were too huge to overcome."

## FULL TEXT

A lawsuit was filed in a federal court in Boston July 25 charging that Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg stole the idea for his social networking site from JConnecticut-based ConnectU, a smaller social-networking Web site founded in late 2002 by Harvard University students Divya Narendra and Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss.

In response, Facebook filed a petition with the court that the suit be dismissed, but federal Judge Douglass Woodlock put off a decision by giving ConnectU until Aug. 8 to provide more specifics against Zuckerberg and other Facebook founders.

"Dorm room chit-chat does not make a contract," Woodlock said, in expressing some skepticism about a legal agreement between Zuckerberg and ConnectU founders, reported the San Francisco Chronicle.

The Winklevoss brothers, identical twins on the U.S. rowing team who aim to compete in the Beijing Olympics in 2008, claim they came up with the idea for a collegiate social network in 2002 and asked Zuckerberg to join the team in 2004.

"We gave him the HarvardConnect.com code and shared our ideas," Cameron Winklevoss said, according to the Chronicle. "We told him the idea was confidential."

Zuckerberg, according to the Stanford Daily, claimed in 2004 that he voluntarily agreed to do six hours of coding for ConnectU.com, but he understood it to be a "personals" site connecting students with alumni and employers, and not a social networking site.

ConnectU founders said they were shocked when Zuckerberg stated The-Facebook. com in February 2004 and they filed a cease-and-desist request six days later. They hired a developer and introduced ConnectU May 1, 2004.

"But it was too late," Winklevoss said. "Facebook's foothold and first mover advantage were too huge to overcome."

Facebook has 31 million users compared with about 70,000 users for ConnectU, according to the Associated Press. In 2006, Facebook rejected a \$1 billion takeover offer from Yahoo.

### Sidebar

Divya Narendra is one of the cofounders of social networking site ConnectU, which has filed a lawsuit against one of the co-founders of Facebook.

## DETAILS

**Subject:** Litigation; Social networks; Web sites; Theft

<b>Location:</b>	Connecticut
<b>People:</b>	Zuckerberg, Mark
<b>Company / organization:</b>	Name: ConnectU.com; NAICS: 518112
<b>Ethnicity:</b>	Asian, Pacific Islander
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