

## A Long Legal Battle

**Tim Maguire:**

A federal judge in California has ordered toy giant Mattel to pay more than 309 million dollars to rival toymaker MGA Entertainment and its founder in the latest chapter of a years-long legal fight between the two companies over ownership of the lucrative Bratz doll line. MGA has been involved in a legal battle with Mattel since 2004 over Bratz.

**Tim Maguire:**

The dolls were aimed at girls ages nine to eleven and flew off the shelves when they debuted in 2001.

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Mattel first filed a lawsuit in 2004, claiming that the designer of Bratz was employed at Mattel when he created the doll. In 2008, a federal jury sided with Mattel and awarded it one hundred million dollars, but that verdict was later overturned, and the case went back for retrial.

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After a second trial earlier this year, a jury rejected Mattel's claim and instead awarded damages to MGA, who alleged that Mattel hired people to spy on its toy design and marketing plans, and stole its trade secrets. Mattel then filed motions asking for a new trial, which a judge denied.

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Thursday, just over 170 million dollars was awarded to MGA for damages related to trade secrets. MGA and its CEO Isaac Larian also get more than 137 million dollars for copyright infringement, breach of contract, and other issues. Mattel can appeal the ruling.

**Tim Maguire:**

Tim Maguire, The Associated Press.

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