

Court rejects estate appeal from Jackson's father

By Anthony McCartney
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — A California appeals court rejected a bid Tuesday by Michael Jackson's father to challenge the administration of his son's lucrative estate.

A three-justice panel of the California Second District Court of Appeal unanimously affirmed a probate judge's ruling that Joe Jackson didn't have standing to intervene in his son's estate.

Despite being excluded from his son's 2002 will, Joe Jackson had been seeking to have some control over financial affairs.

Attorney Brian Oxman, who represents Joe Jackson, said he would ask the court to reconsider

and might appeal to the California Supreme Court.

He insisted Joe Jackson should have some say in post-death affairs involving his son.

"This is not right," Oxman said of the ruling.

Attorney Howard Weitzman, who represents the estate, said he was pleased the court affirmed the pop star's decision before he died to make attorney John Branca and music executive and family friend John McClain the executors of his will.

"We hope this decision finally puts this issue to rest," Weitzman said.

The appeals court heard arguments in the estate case on Oct. 6 and questioned several steps taken by Joe Jackson in the case,

including withdrawing his request for a monthly stipend.

The panel also questioned why Oxman didn't mention during a lengthy hearing in November that he might file a wrongful death lawsuit. Last June, Joe Jackson sued Dr. Conrad Murray, the physician who has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter in Michael Jackson's death.

Michael Jackson's estate has earned tens of millions of dollars since the singer's death in June 2009 at age 50.

The court also ruled that Joe Jackson was responsible for the costs of the legal challenge, although the amount was not immediately clear. In addition, the court said Joe Jackson's bid for an evidentiary hearing during which



Joe Jackson walks out of a courtroom with Michael Jackson on June 2005. Joe Jackson's appeal to have rights to Michael's estate was denied by a three-justice panel of the California Second District Court of Appeal.

he could challenge the administrators was contrary to the interests of his wife Katherine Jackson and three grandchildren, who receive the majority of money generated by the estate.

Willow Smith wanted to be like her famous parents

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — When Willow Smith explains why she entered the music business, she talks about expressing her individuality, and wanting to help people with her message. But she also acknowledges that she wanted to be famous like her "mommy and daddy."

She's well on her way now. The 9-year-old daughter of Will and Jada Pinkett Smith has become a viral sensation with her first single, "Whip My Hair." The official version of the video has gotten more than 7 million views on YouTube; there was even a popular video that mashed the song with the Sesame Street "I Love My Hair" video (which she

laughed and called "very funny").

Willow's funky song, which makes its debut on iTunes on Tuesday, is even being played in the clubs, and she's due to release her first album on Jay-Z's Roc Nation sometime next year.

In a phone interview Monday, Willow said she was "very surprised" about the success of the song, but said she thought the song's message was resonating with listeners: "I just think that it's like, individuality that they're excited about."

Willow first entered the limelight three years ago, playing the daughter of her father's character in the blockbuster movie "I Am Legend." At that time, it seemed as if she would follow in the acting footsteps of her parents, much like her brother, Jaden, who earlier



Willow Smith, second right, has become a viral sensation with her song "Whip My Hair." The video has more than 7 million views on YouTube.

this year had his own smash movie with the remake of "The Karate Kid."

But Willow was more influenced by her parents' musical careers: Will Smith is a Grammy winner

who got his start rapping, and Jada Pinkett Smith has toured the country as part of a metal band.

"I would go on tour with them and watch them and I'd be like, 'Oh my gosh, that's what I wanna do,'" she said.

Willow said she decided not to wait to pursue her musical career until she got older — say, as a teenager.

"I wanted to make a difference now, (and) because I wanted to be big and famous like my mommy and daddy and help people," she said.

Willow describes her style as "punk rock meets preppy" and said her musical idols include Billy Idol — "his music is really tight," she explains, — and Lady Gaga.

"She's really nice," Willow said of Gaga.

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