



Photo by Robert Lewis

Steven Feldman, left, Sean E. Macias, Jon Leader and Robert Broadbent served as co-counsel for Tri-Tech, which provides access to more than 55,000 gay adult-entertainment sites.

Snitch Snatched Lists From Web-Porn Firm, Judge Says

By Eron Ben-Yehuda

Pornography remains among the most profitable enterprises on the Internet because it's one of the few services that Web surfers are willing to pay to view.

That makes competition to capture customers intense, as a recently concluded case shows.

The work of Glendale-based Tri Tech includes confirming that an Internet user is 18 or older. One of the adult-verification services that Tri-Tech operates is UGAS.com, which stands for United Gay Adult Sites. Users who apply for membership with UGAS.com provide their name, mailing address, e-mail and credit-card information.

"This information is pretty much the cor-

nerstone of the industry," Macias says. "It's extremely valuable."

Apparently, stealing information about Tri-Tech's 2 million-plus subscribers proved too tempting for its rival, New Day Communications Inc.

After a bench trial, U.S. District Judge Percy Anderson found New Day liable last month for misappropriation of trade secrets.

New Day, its affiliates and two brothers who ran the companies are responsible for paying \$1.8 million in compensatory and \$2 million in punitive damages. *Tri-Tech Internet Services, Inc. v. New Day Communications, Inc.*, 01-06800 (C.D. Cal., Sept. 18, 2003).