Suede To Change Name For U.S.
Columbia Act Agrees To Settle Lawsuit

NEW YORK—British recording act Suede will officially be known in the U.S., as the London Suede, while retaining its original name in all other territories. The band and its labels—Sony Music, Columbia Records, and Nude Records Ltd.—had been sued by Suzanne deBran & Co., a Maryland-based jazz/pop artist who performs and records under the name Suede (Billboard, Dec. 25, 1996). The British band agreed to the U.S. name change to settle the lawsuit.

Columbia announced the name change and lawsuit settlement in a press release, but declined to comment further.

John Hazzard, deBran & Co.'s attorney, said, "The settlement was fair. We're very glad it's been settled. Sony was very cooperative; they're very good people to work with. I hope that both the British band and my client will prosper."

DeBran & Co. owns the trademark for the name Suede, she said.

The London Suede will release a six-song EP in the U.S. on April 26 on Nude/Columbia Records. The EP's lead track is "Stay Together," which debuted on the British singles chart at No. 3. DeBran & Co. is currently working on her next album, which is due out in December on her own Easily Suede Music label.

THRU MILLER ROSENBLUM