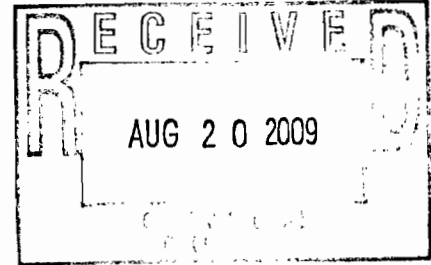




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August 4, 2009

Office of the General Counsel  
Library of Congress  
U.S. Copyright Office  
Room LM-401  
James Madison Building  
101 Independence Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20559



Re: FR Doc. Vol. 74, No. 133 page 33930-33932  
Electronic Registration for Deposit Account Holders

Dear Sirs:

The Copyright Office is proposing to amend its regulations to require that applications for registration paid for by deposit account debits be submitted electronically using the electronic Copyright Office registration system. Government Liaison Services, Inc. (GLS) is opposed to the proposal as the amendment is arbitrary, capricious and will have an adverse impact on those persons or firms having a considerable amount of business with the Copyright Office that maintain deposit accounts.

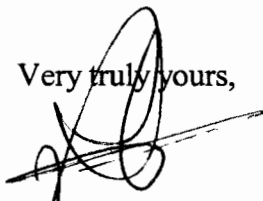
In its July 14, 2009 Federal Register notice, the Copyright Office notes that the system of deposit accounts for those who frequently use its services is maintained to ensure a process that is efficient and less expensive for both the Copyright Office and the applicant. GLS recognizes that the deposit account system as currently established achieves those goals. GLS also concedes that the proposed change may ensure that basis applications for registrations may reduce the Copyright Office's administrative costs. However, GLS asserts that that the proposed change will had adverse impact on the efficiency and expense borne by many applicants, particularly those who deposit account holders who file a wide variety of applications for diverse types of media. Moreover, the Copyright Office has provided no support for its assertion that the proposed change would ensure a more efficient processing of applications for registration.

GLS asserts that although the electronic Copyright Office registration system may prove adequate for a limited number of some filings, its limitations render it inefficient or infeasible for others. Given the Copyright Office requirement for a deposit consisting of the "best edition" of a work, the physical limitations of the electronic system make compliance with the requirement impossible for many genre of works such as published texts, motion pictures and large data files. Similarly, given the know security and performance issues attendant to the Copyright Office's electronic system as well as concerns regarding network security and computer hackers, many applicant's are

reluctant to introduce their valuable intellectual property into cyberspace. Thus, although the electronic Copyright Office registration system may reduce the Copyright Office's administrative costs, the proposed amendment would require many deposit account holders to establish a bifurcated system wherein some applications may be filed electronically and charged to an existent deposit account while others would require the separate payments that the deposit account system was designed to eliminate.

Moreover, although the Copyright Office maintains that the proposed change would ensure a more efficient processing of applications for registration it has provided no support for that assertion. It should be noted that in the twelve month period following the introduction of the electronic Copyright Office registration system in July 2008, the estimated processing time for an application has increased four fold from approximately six months to the current of estimated processing time of two years. Thus, given the obvious adverse impact that electronic registration system has had on processing efficiency to date, it is inconceivable that increased usage will realize the stated benefit.

Thus, given the adverse impact upon current deposit account users and the unsupported assertions regarding processing efficiencies, GLS recommends that the Copyright Office withdraw its proposed amendment .

Very truly yours,  
  
Robert G. Forbes