

Copyright Notices

All Hands Meeting Focuses on Year's Accomplishments

JUDITH NIERMAN

PHOTOS BY CECELIA ROGERS



From left, David Carson, Michele Woods, Jim Enzinna, Jewel Player, and Syreeta Swann-Joseph told staff about fiscal 2010 projects in their areas.

Copyright Office staff gathered in the Coolidge Auditorium for an all hands meeting on October 20. Presentations began with **Liz Scheffler**, chief operating officer, who reviewed the accomplishments of the year. She noted that 2.4 million Copyright Office records had been digitized to date with 68 million records of registration and recordation to go. She said that the Office cleared 682,148 claims in fiscal 2010 and registered 636,527 claims. Among the chief accomplishments of the year, she included the initiation of telework, the eCO upgrade, the section 1201 study, the section 115 reauthorization, the records digitization project, reengineering in the Licensing Division, the first Aspiring Leaders Program, and the International Copyright Conference.

Syreeta Swann-Joseph, a senior information specialist in the Public Information Office and one of the first staffers to work from home, said that teleworking “has been an exceptional experience. I’m really productive, completing more than 100 emails a day. Telework is good for the Office,” she concluded. Scheffler thanked all who undertook telework with the first wave of available laptops. “You are like pilgrims to a new land,” she observed.

Next to speak was General Counsel **David Carson**. He said that only one piece of copyright legislation had been passed by Congress in fiscal 2010—the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA). (See the September 2010 issue of *Copyright Notices*.) STELA, which extended the section 119 license until 2014, requires the Office to conduct a study and present recommendations to Congress on how to phase out the satellite and cable licensing systems. Other proposed

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PHOTO BY JUDITH NIERMAN

Marybeth Peters

Register's Corner

This is my final column as Register. I start my new life as a retiree on January 1, albeit with quite a few commitments in the copyright sphere. My almost 45 years in the Copyright Office have been challenging, rewarding, and full of joy.

You all have been wonderful. I recently described you as family, and, in my mind, you are. I so appreciate your contributions to the public, to the Office, to the Library, and to each other. We have accomplished much together.

When I reflect on my career and its ups and downs and try to decide what I enjoyed the most, I inevitably identify the year 1977 and my

assignment to educate the staff and the public on the provisions of the 1976 Copyright Act to prepare them for its implementation on January 1, 1978. Not quite so enjoyable, but extremely necessary, was the Office's implementation program. This was hard work. Every regulation, every practice, and every piece of paper had to be changed. It was a daunting and tedious task that consumed most managers and supervisors as well as the lawyers.

I've had many different jobs within the Office, and I enjoyed them all. More than anything else, however, I enjoyed the people I worked with and the people I met. The mission of the Office is important, and you carry it out every day. Authors, other creators, the copyright industries, and the public benefit. You serve them well, and they appreciate your efforts. Over the years, I have met many of our constituents. More often than not, I am told about the wonderful people in the Office who have helped them. They comment on your expertise, courteousness, and desire to help.

I so appreciate the celebration of my retirement on December 3, the remarks of Dr. Billington, **David Carson**, **Maria Pallante**, **Nanette Petruzzelli**, and **Michele Woods**, as well as the musical tribute by a fine group of singers from the Office who presented an unbelievably warm and funny lyric by **Laura Lee Fischer** and **Alice Parrish**. Ending the celebration with the "Electric Slide," whose creator had been seeking to register a claim in its choreography, was icing on the cake. (After a long and hard deliberation, the Review Board refused to register.) I thank all who assisted and participated in this event, and I thank all for my present—a gift certificate for an Apple laptop, something I will cherish for years.

You are exceptional. I will always remember you. Your contributions are, and have been, awesome, and I thank you all. ☺

Marybeth Peters
Marybeth Peters
Register of Copyrights

"I've had many different jobs within the Office, and I enjoyed them all. More than anything else, however, I enjoyed the people I worked with and the people I met."

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Suggestions for articles and comments are welcomed. Please call for deadlines.

Marybeth Peters Presents Distinguished Lecture

JUDITH NIERMAN

Register of Copyrights **Marybeth Peters** presented the sixth annual Finnegan Distinguished Lecture on Intellectual Property on November 4 at the American University Washington College of Law in the District. The lecture was cosponsored by the Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property of American University and the law firm of Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett, and Dunner, one of the largest intellectual property firms in the world. Entitled "The 1976 Copyright Act: Prologue and Epilogue," the Register's talk was not a scholarly presentation but a reflection on the time when the 1909 Copyright Act was

being revised, a process that took nearly a quarter of a century. The Register said that the Copyright Office played a critical role in the enactment of the 1976 Copyright Act, and, in her talk, she paid homage to the Office for that role.

Also speaking were attorneys Jon Baumgarten, a former Copyright Office general counsel, and Arthur Levine, who worked in the Office for eight years during the revision efforts.

To hear the program, go to www.wcl.american.edu/go/finnegan-2010. For further information, go to www.ipbrief.net/2010/11/08/marybeth-peters-speaks-at-the-sixth-annual-finnegan-lecture/. ©

OFFICE
NEWS

AIPLA Honors Copyright Office Staffers

JUDITH NIERMAN

The American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), a 17,000-member national bar association of intellectual property lawyers, recognized nine Copyright Office staff members

at its 2010 annual meeting, held in Washington, D.C., on October 22. Those receiving a certificate of recognition at a special reception included **Warren Cytron, Loretta Freeman, Gareth**

James, Roderick Johnson, Tonya Lewis, Kim Robinson, Lashawne Stafford, Kathryn Sukites, and Melissa Wells.

In recognizing staffers, the AIPLA stated, "your high standards of professionalism provide leadership by example to your colleagues. Your skills reward the inventors and creators we represent, as the Constitution and the Congress intend. Your contribution truly serves the public."

Bravo to the AIPLA honorees! ©

Staffer Needs Donated Leave

DeNina Scott, an administrative support clerk in the Records Research and Certification Section of the Information and Records Division, is in need of annual leave donations. Due to complications with a pregnancy and an early delivery, DeNina is requesting donated leave to recuperate and to take care of her new baby.

DeNina has been approved for the leave donor program, and her account has been established in WebTA under her name. Submit your leave donation through WebTA in the Leave/Prem Pay section. Please contact your T&A clerk if you have any questions. ©

Appointments

Chanda Malik

JUDITH NIERMAN



PHOTO BY JUDITH NIERMAN

Chanda Malik

Chanda Malik was appointed to the position of technician in the Records Research and Certification Section (RRC) of the Information and Records Division, effective September 13.

In October 2009, Chanda began serving a detail in RRC as a customer service representative who staffed the front desk. “Chanda’s pleasant demeanor and superb multitasking abilities always put the patrons at ease,” said Rosemary Kelly, section head in RRC. Chanda remained in that position, which became permanent, until she assumed the position of technician. “I love my job,” said Chanda, “and I like dealing with people.”

Chanda spent a year at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore studying psychology and criminal justice. Now she would like to resume her studies, possibly at Georgetown University, where her mother works. Chanda began her federal career in 2002 as a clerk in the Deposit Copies Storage Unit in Landover, Maryland, where she remained until 2009. Her prior work experience includes jobs at local restaurants as hostess and waitress, in a medical insurance billing company as a clerk, and in a dentist’s office as an assistant. There she learned to sterilize instruments and give shots to numb gums.

Chanda and her husband, Luqman, are the parents of three young children: a daughter, Ya’Niyah, age nine, and eight-year-old twin boys, Jalil and Kalil. The family includes Capone, a blue pit bull. ©

Catherine Rowland

JUDITH NIERMAN

Catherine Rowland began working in her new position as an attorney-advisor in the General Counsel’s Office on September 13. Catie comes to the Office from the Washington, D.C., offices of the law firm Arnold and Porter.

A native of Richmond, Virginia, Catie graduated from American University with a bachelor’s degree in political science. She spent a year working for a Richmond travel insurance company before entering William and Mary Law School.

Upon graduation, Catherine clerked for Judge

N. Carlton Tilley in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. There she worked with trials, hearings, and sentencing in a wide range of federal cases.

In 2002, Catherine went to work for Arnold and Porter, where she stayed until 2005. For a year she worked for Hogan and Hartson, now Hogan Lovells, before returning to Arnold and Porter in 2006.

An enthusiastic reader, Catie favors biographies of presidents and monarchs and has recently turned her attention to fiction. Catie has traveled widely but says she has not been to Asia or Africa. She spent a semester in Switzerland and a summer in Spain and has visited Hawaii, Puerto Rico, South America, and many European countries. ©



PHOTO BY JUDITH NIERMAN

Catherine Rowland

Maria Strong

JUDITH NIERMAN

Maria Strong joined the Office of Policy and International Affairs (PIA) on October 12 as senior counsel. She brings 19 years of experience in the private practice of law in Washington, D.C. “I’m pleased to be in the Copyright Office at this exciting time. It’s really an honor to represent the Office,” she said.

While in private practice, Maria represented the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), a coalition of seven U.S. trade associations whose member companies produce and distribute copyrighted materials worldwide. She worked to research and produce IIPA’s annual submission to the U.S. Trade Representative examining the adequacy of copyright protection and enforcement in dozens of countries. She also worked on numerous IIPA reports called *Copyright Industries in the U.S. Economy*, which examine the critical role the copyright industries play in the U.S. economy. She also represented other clients in supporting the U.S. government’s intellectual property interests and market access in cases against China before the World Trade Organization.

A California native, Maria holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Los

Angeles, in communication studies and a master’s degree in communications management from the University of Southern California’s Annenberg School of Communications. She traveled east to pursue her interests in media policy and earned her law degree from the George Washington University Law School. Maria worked briefly for the Federal Communications Commission before moving into copyright law by joining the law practice of Eric H. Smith. The firm evolved into Smith and Metalitz and was later renamed Smith, Strong, and Schlesinger. Three years ago, Maria moved to Greenberg Taurig.

Maria, who is conversant in Spanish, will be working on many countries in Latin America as well as several countries in Asia. She has studied yoga and is now involved in hapkido, a Korean martial-art form of self defense. She has two sons, Peter, age nine, and Zachary, age six. ©



PHOTO BY JUDITH NIERMAN

Maria Strong

Melissa Wells

WENDI A. MALONEY

Melissa Wells joined the staff of the Literary Division as a registration specialist in August. Previously, she was a liaison specialist in the Register’s Office, where her duties included serving as executive assistant to **Liz Scheffler**, the Office’s chief operating officer.

Helping out with the Office’s transition from paper-based to electronic processing acquainted Melissa with registration work. From June to December 2009, she proofread copyright applications that had been scanned against the original applications, correcting errors and completing electronic records. Earlier this year,

she supervised a group of 12 technicians from Library Services who were detailed to the Copyright Office as part of the “backlog busters” effort to reduce a backlog in processing of copyright applications filed on paper (see the March and May issues of *Copyright Notices*). Her duties involved training the technicians and supervising their work.



PHOTO BY WENDI A. MALONEY

Melissa Wells

"I found it interesting to see the different kinds of materials that come into the Copyright Office," Melissa said. "And I enjoyed the hands-on collective effort. So when a registration specialist position opened up, I applied."

Melissa said she is enjoying her new position. "The training is thorough and organized," she commented, noting that it includes background readings and practice applications that feature issues registrations specialists routinely encounter. She said 90 percent of the applications on her desk now are for unpublished works. "Because most applications for unpublished works aren't completed by people who file regularly, they tend to have problems that lead to learning experiences," she explained.

Melissa is engaged to be married to an intellectual property attorney, and she discusses the occasional copyright application with him. "We have some good conversations about copyright—he thinks my work is important, which is nice," she said. Her fiancé, Peter, works at a firm in Washington, D.C. The couple will be married next May in the Turks and Caicos.

Before coming to the Copyright Office, Melissa worked at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum on the Mall. Melissa grew up in Texas and attended Texas A&M University. While a student there, she worked at the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library. ©

Denise Wofford

WENDI A. MALONEY



PHOTO BY WENDI A. MALONEY

Denise Wofford

Denise Wofford joined the staff of the Copyright Technology Office in October as deputy director. She has more than 20 years of experience in the information technology field, including more than 10 years of service to the federal government.

Most recently, she worked for the U.S. Treasury Department. First she was assistant director for computer operations for the department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, overseeing modernization of the network's distributed computing environment. Later, she oversaw a Treasury-wide contract supporting the agency's help desk and data center functions. Before that, she was division chief for technical infrastructure and end-user support at the Peace Corps, where she managed help desk and data center operations for U.S. regional offices. Denise's first federal position was at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Graduate School.

In the private sector, Denise was a technical project manager for the media company

Gannett, a job that required her to travel all over the United States and to Guam and Puerto Rico to install and upgrade computer applications. Earlier, she worked in software development for several companies.

Denise earned a bachelor's degree in management and information systems from Appalachian State University, where she was on the gymnastics team. She has a master's degree in information technology management from University of Maryland University College.

Denise said she anticipates a smooth transition into her new position, in which she will assist **Doug Ament**, CTO's chief, with the continuing upgrade of electronic Copyright Office systems and management of daily CTO operations, among other duties. "The Copyright Office's mission appeals to me, and I have found the staff to be competent and friendly," she said. "It's a great organization; I'm delighted to be here."

Outside work, Denise enjoys gardening, running, and especially golf. She met her husband, Freddie, golfing. The couple have a daughter, Samantha, 15, who attends the Madeira School in McLean, Virginia. The Woffords live in Bethesda, Maryland. ©

Anniversaries

Freda Duncan

WENDI A. MALONEY

As of this year, **Freda Duncan** has served the federal government for 25 years. She started in 1985 at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, moving in 1990 to the U.S. Information Agency, part of the State Department.

Freda secured a position at the Copyright Office in 1997 after applying at a federal jobs fair. "I was looking for something new, and it was a good decision. I've stayed here ever since," she said.

She began as secretary to the assistant chief of the Examining Division, becoming administrative assistant to the assistant chief of the Performing Arts Division following the 2007 Office reorganization. She handles time and attendance and personnel records, answers patron inquiries forwarded from the Public Information Office, and mails between 20 and 60 letters a day written by registration specialists to claimants, inserting circulars and other items as necessary. A major recent duty involves inputting data from handwritten paper copyright applications into electronic Copyright Office records and checking and correcting data already entered into records.

"I've met some interesting folks over the years," Freda said of the Copyright Office, adding that a highlight of her day is meeting with a group of close friends at lunch. Besides Freda, the group includes **Eugenie Duncan**, Freda's cousin and

an administrative officer in the Register's Office; **Terrawn Rogers**, secretary to the deputy general counsel; **Rose Rogers**, a support assistant in the Literary Division; and two new members, **Clifton Brown** and **Reginald Young**, technicians in the Law Library. Freda met Brown and Young when they were detailed to the

Copyright Office earlier this year as part of the Library-wide effort to reduce the registration-processing backlog. "We talk about anything and everything," Freda said. "Families, male-female relationships, politics, anything. It's a wonderful break in the day."

Freda shares a home in Largo, Maryland, with her aunt. In her free time, she enjoys listening to music, line dancing, following the Redskins, and especially reading. Although she reads different genres, her favorite is Christian fiction. Freda also likes to travel. She looks forward to visiting Mexico next year with Eugenie Duncan and Terrawn Rogers.

Freda grew up in Washington, D.C., and attended Ballou High School. She is now organizing her 30th class reunion, which will take place next year. **e**



Freda Duncan

PHOTO BY WENDI A. MALONEY

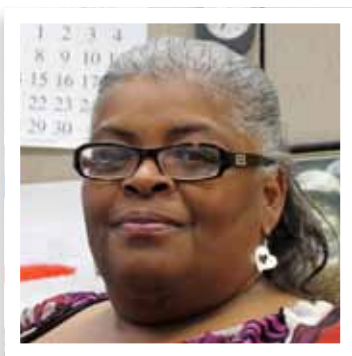
Vera Rich

WENDI A. MALONEY

Vera Rich has worked at the Library of Congress for 35 years. She started on October 6, 1975, as a clerk-typist in the Cataloging in Publication Division. She moved to the Cataloging Distribution Service in 1983 as an administrative clerk and came to the Examining Division of the

Copyright Office in 1988. She served as section secretary in three division sections before being promoted in 2007 to administrative assistant to the chief of the Literary Division.

In her current position, Vera answers the telephone, tracks the time and attendance of



Vera Rich

division staff, schedules appointments for claimants who want to meet with a registration specialist, and carries out other duties.

“It was a challenge at first learning how to work under new procedures after the 2007 Office reorganization, but things are flowing much more smoothly now,” she said.

Vera lives in Warsaw, Virginia, her hometown, and commutes two hours to and from work daily. She said she enjoys Warsaw’s small-town, family-oriented environment.

Vera’s son, Jarees, serves in the U.S. Navy and was deployed in Iraq for nine months in 2009. “As long as I heard from him once a week or so, I was okay,” Vera said. Jarees is now stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. He and his wife welcomed their second child in November.

Vera’s daughter Jacinta graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2007 and works as a loan officer for SunTrust Bank in Richmond, Virginia; she has one son. Vera’s daughter Janita recently earned a cosmetology license. She lives near Vera with her husband and four children. Other members of Vera’s family also live in Warsaw. “When I step outside my house, I can see the houses of my family up and down the street,” Vera said.

“Time has flown by,” Vera said of her career, partly because she finds the Office’s work interesting. “Of the Library units I’ve worked in, the Copyright Office is my favorite. I’ve enjoyed seeing the different works that come through the Office, some by famous people.”

Vera is a member of the Second Baptist Church in Warsaw. She anticipates retiring in a few years so that she can spend more time with her family and twelve grandchildren. ©

Obituary

Melvin Aikens

JUDITH NIERMAN

Melvin Aikens, who retired from the Copyright Office with more than 38 years of federal service, died at age 68 on September 19, his birthday.

After two years working in the old Julius Garfinkel department store in the District, Melvin came to the Library in September 1962. He was later promoted to the Exchange and Gift Division, where he worked as a stamp and sorter clerk, stacking materials that the Library did not select for its collections.

In 1966, Melvin joined the Copyright Office staff, spending the next eight years in the Mail Room. In 1972, he was promoted to the position of materials expediter in the Materials Control Section. He retired from this position in May 2001.

For many years, Melvin maintained an active Christian ministry to imprisoned women in Jessup, Maryland. He taught Bible study and

Sunday school at his church, was in the Bible Club at the Library, and worked with young people through Teen Challenge, an organization that seeks a faith-based solution to drug and alcohol addiction. In addition, he served as assistant pastor at St. Stephen Baptist Church. Melvin attended Maple Springs Baptist Bible College and Seminary and received a certificate in biblical studies in May 2008.

An avid sports fan, Melvin was a timekeeper for youth basketball and football in Prince George’s County recreation centers. He was a member of bowling leagues and basketball teams and in retirement volunteered as a sports scout for three small colleges.

Melvin is survived by his wife of 43 years, Lois; their children, Karen, Dwayne, and Carla; and two grandsons, Anthony and Aaron. ©

All Hands Meeting (Continues from page 1)

legislation that had passed the Senate but not yet been considered by the House of Representatives would make it easier for the Office to maintain its online service providers directory and to accept online signatures as part of online submissions of documents for recordation.

In addition, Carson reviewed litigation involving copyright issues, especially mentioning cases that seek to invalidate thousands of copyrights having to do with collective works and databases of photographs because, in accord with Office policy, the registration applications did not include the names of all individual authors or all titles of each of the photographs.

Michele Woods, acting associate Register for policy and international affairs (PIA), reviewed topics on which PIA is currently focusing, including the proposed Google Book Settlement, which attempts to resolve a copyright infringement lawsuit regarding Google's scanning and digitizing of 15 million books, many under copyright protection, and Google's display of snippets of these works on the Internet. Many works of foreign authors are included in the Google trove, and foreign governments have expressed concern. The accessibility of copyrighted works to the blind and visually impaired is another issue on which PIA is actively working on the national and international levels. (See the April 2010 issue of *Copyright Notices*.)

Jim Enzinna, chief of the Licensing Division, outlined that division's ongoing reengineering project. (See the September 2010 issue of *Copyright Notices*.) "To date we have reinvented ourselves within the confines of our current processes such that remitters make the thousands of photocopies that we used to make, and funds are sent to us by electronic transfers. We are completing the most complex work first, we are making better use of technology to communicate with remitters, and we are actively engaged in outreach to improve the quality of the statements we receive," said Enzinna. "The result is that we have eliminated a backlog of statements and cut the processing time for statements. I'm proud of what we've done. However, the best is yet to come as we redesign our work processes and develop our new system," continued Enzinna.

"Our 'Total Team Reengineering' to which all staff are contributing is rethinking everything and assuming nothing as we leverage the original reengineering effort that has accomplished so much." Benefits to staff will include a reduced workload, no rekeying of information, and availability of needed software on each staffer's computer. Benefits to customers will include easier and more accurate statement submissions, faster processing, online availability of records, and more powerful analysis and reporting tools.

Representing the Copyright Acquisitions Division, Chief **Jewel Player** brought all staff up to date on the effort to receive deposits of published electronic works available only online. (See the October issue of *Copyright Notices*.) She reported that two universities had actually sent files, and others were ready to submit. "This is a new challenge for us," she said.

Mike Salmons of the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness (OSEP) reported results of the evacuation review conducted after the FM-200 fire suppression system was set off on August 26 by repair work being done by Architect of the Capitol workers. The result was an unplanned evacuation of the Madison Building. As a consequence of the review, the U.S. Capitol Police have revised their procedures to include use of the elevators in nonfire emergencies. OSEP will streamline the areas of rescue assistance and staging areas to make rescue easier for both the police and disabled staff. OSEP also will add benches to the staging areas in both the Adams and the Jefferson buildings and will conduct drills on assisted evacuations.

During a question and answer time, Scheffler said that those seeking an "outstanding" rating should speak to their managers about what is required. She said that she cannot comment on changes to performance requirements in the Registration and Recordation Program due to ongoing negotiations with the staff union. Telework, she continued, will be reopened later this fiscal year, to all qualified staff, those whose performance is "fully successful" or higher, and those whose positions are approved for telework. Temporary medical-related telework

should be discussed on a case-by-case basis with managers. Scheffler emphasized that supervisory misbehavior, including circumstances that could be interpreted as contributing to a hostile work environment, will not be tolerated. She stressed her belief in cross-training and noted that it has been employed in the Receipt Analysis and Control Division. The availability of overtime, she said, is determined solely by organizational need. For those below the GS-7 level, she recommended the Library's Career Development Program. (See the October issue of *Copyright Notices*.)

In her concluding remarks, Scheffler praised the Public Information Office (PIO). "PIO does a phenomenal job of educating our patrons. One of our goals is to get more staffers outside the Office to continue this work."

As the final speaker in her last all hands meeting, Register of Copyrights **Marybeth Peters**, who will retire on December 31, said

she feels that she can retire now because of the success of the online registration system. "When we identified a need," she said, "staffers came forward. For all you have done, I thank you. Serving as Register was the greatest honor of my life." The staff gave her a standing ovation. ©

Birth

DeNina Scott, who works in the Records Research and Certification Section of the Information and Records Division as an administrative support clerk, and her husband, Carlton, are the proud parents of a new baby, Darin Olivia Scott, born October 24, 2010.

The baby girl was also welcomed by big brother Carlton and big sister Carlina.

Out & About

Register of Copyrights **Marybeth Peters** attended the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Second Global Symposium of Intellectual Property Authorities on September 16–17 in Geneva. She served on a panel entitled "Voluntary Recordation of Copyrighted Works: How Are They Contributing to Creative Works Transactions and What Are the Recent Challenges?" See the WIPO website (www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/mdocs/en/wipo_ip_aut_ge_10/wipo_ip_aut_ge_10_www_142015.pdf) for the Register's presentation, which was created by Visual Information Specialist **Cecelia Rogers** of the Publications Section.

Peters participated in a panel entitled "The Terminator: The Brewing Battle over Copyright Termination and Transfer" on October 4 at the October 3–5 Future of Music Policy Summit at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. General Counsel **David Carson**, Assistant General Counsel **Ben Golant**, Deputy General Counsel **Tanya Sandros**, Counsel for Policy and International Affairs **Amanda Wilson Denton**,

and Senior Counsel for Policy and International Affairs **Michele Woods** also attended the summit.

The Register was the keynote speaker at the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations's annual general meeting on October 28 in Boston.

Peters was both a participant and a presenter at the 10th American German Copyright Summit in Los Angeles November 1–2. She presented "Legislative Developments in the United States."

The Register presented the sixth annual Finnegan Henderson Distinguished Lecture on Intellectual Property on November 4 at the Washington College of Law of American University in the District. (See page 3 of this issue of *Copyright Notices* for details.) In attendance were General Counsel David Carson; Counsel for Policy and International Affairs **Paula Pinha**; **Chris Reed**, a Department of Justice counsel on detail to the Office of Policy and International Affairs; Attorney-Advisor **Catherine Rowland**; Counsel for Policy and International Affairs Amanda Wilson Denton; and Acting Associate

Register for Policy and International Affairs Michele Woods.

On November 9, the Register gave a keynote interview to the Entertainment Law Conference sponsored by the music business association known as NARM and the Country Music Association (CMA). The event took place in Nashville, Tennessee. Peters discussed her career, the changes in U.S. and international copyright law and policy that she has witnessed, and her ideas about the future of copyright law. The conference was part of the events leading to the 44th Annual CMA Awards. Following the talk, the Register was honored at a reception.

On October 25, Amanda Wilson Denton and Paula Pinha spoke at a seminar hosted by the Copyright Clearance Center in Danvers, Massachusetts. The seminar, entitled “The Practice and Politics of Licensing,” educated smaller collective management organizations on practical licensing issues and updated attendees on U.S. legislative issues.

On November 4, Paula Pinha and Chris Reed attended a symposium entitled “Justice Stephen G. Breyer’s ‘The Uneasy Case for Copyright’” at the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C. David Carson and Michele Woods attended Justice Breyer’s keynote speech.

Paula Pinha, Chris Reed, and Amanda Wilson Denton attended a program entitled “Supreme Court Confidential—*Costco Wholesale Corp v. Omega*” hosted by the Copyright Society of the U.S.A. in Washington, D.C., on November 8.

From November 22 to 26, Paula Pinha participated as a member of the U.S. Delegation to the Sixth Session of the WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property in Geneva.

Josh Sackler, legal assistant for policy and international affairs, and Amanda Wilson Denton attended a panel entitled “Approaches by Internet Service Providers Around the World to Copyright Infringement.” The event was hosted by BroadbandBreakfast.com on November 9 in Washington, D.C.

Josh Sackler attended a Department of Justice hearing on regulatory proposals

regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act on November 16 in Washington, D.C.

Senior Counsel for Policy and International Affairs **Maria Strong** represented the Copyright Office at WIPO’s Global Meeting on Emerging Copyright Licensing Modalities on November 4–5 in Geneva.

During the week of December 6, Amanda Wilson Denton was part of the U.S. Delegation to the 17th Session of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore in Geneva.

Michele Woods represented the United States as a member of the U.S. delegation at the 21st WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights in Geneva on November 8–12. Topics discussed included limitations and exceptions to copyright law for the blind and visually impaired as well as copyright protection for audiovisual performances and broadcasting organizations. ©

Kudos to Staff

“Kudos” recognizes extraordinary work by Copyright Office staff that has attracted comment from external constituents. Supervisors are invited to submit notices to this column by sending an email message to wmal@loc.gov.

Susan Austin *Literary Division*

Joanne Fields Doty, vice president of SARS Software Products, Inc., addressed the following note to **Sue Austin** on November 3 after Sue helped Doty over the course of two weeks with corrections to registration certificates.

“By way of this email, I wish to recognize you for your invaluable assistance, professionalism, and strong commitment to customer satisfaction.”

Nanette Petruzzelli, Associate Register for Registration and Recordation, forwarded the note for inclusion in Kudos, adding, “Sue Austin is one of the reasons we can be proud of Registration.” ©

R.R. Bowker Documents Show Demand for Copyright

JUDITH NIERMAN

In the late 19th century, England and the United States pirated the work of each other's authors with impunity. Richard Rogers Bowker (1848–1933), a founder of the American Library Association and editor of *Library Journal* and *Publishers Weekly* wanted to put a stop to it.

In 1879, Bowker, who campaigned for copyright protection and who knew just about everybody, sent a survey to prominent American authors and publishers seeking their views on international copyright. Bowker asked five questions: Do you favor international copyright? What plan do you prefer? What method do you favor to accomplish the plan? Can you estimate how much revenue from sales abroad you have lost because of the lack of international copyright? Can you suggest changes to domestic copyright law? The handwritten responses are preserved among Bowker's papers in the Library's Manuscript Reading Room.

Although most respondents did not know much about copyright, they generally acknowledged that they had been "ripped off" and they favored change. Author Frances Hodgson Burnett estimated that 100,000 of her books had been sold in England with a return "so insignificant as to be scarcely worth mentioning." (See the March issue of *Copyright Notices*.) Authors Oliver Wendell Holmes, William Dean Howells, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow suggested that domestic copyright provide "perpetual" copyright, while biographer James E. Parton wanted a term of 50 years. He stated that "by refusing to protect the rights of authors and artists, we accept the rank of colonies in all the higher interests of man."

From 1885 to 1886, Bowker collected signatures from authors and publishers on a petition urging passage of an international copyright law. Many respondents added comments on their copies, which are also preserved in the Library. Poet Henry Abbey said that "the absence of such an agreement is



R.R. Bowker, left, with Melvil Dewey, right, developer of the Dewey Decimal System, and Dewey's wife.

an injustice to foreign authors, and is no less unjust to American authors. Equal justice to both would foster domestic literature." Novelist Louisa May Alcott quoted a Roman maxim attributed to Julius Caesar's father-in-law Lucius Calpurnius Piso Caesoninus: "Let justice be done though the heavens fall." Humorist Mark Twain thought General Grant, who had died the previous year, should also sign. Indiana novelist, editor, and clergyman Edward Eggleston said, "I write this in London, where I meet continually the reproach that the American Congress is willing to continue the toleration of systematic theft. What can I do but blush and acknowledge that it is true?"

Due to the efforts of Bowker and many others, the Chace Act was signed into law by President Harrison on March 4, 1891, giving for the first time to certain foreign authors who abided by formalities the possibility of U.S. copyright and thus assuring a level of reciprocal protection abroad for American authors. ©

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