

5/13/12

Dear Copyright Office:

My name is Duane V. Gamble and I'm a photographer. I earn my livelihood from being a photographer and a fine art artist. Lately on the internet, I saw your Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Proposed New Fee Schedules. I'm quite concerned with the Copyright Office making plans to raising the fees for Photographers registering their copyrights to their photographs. I feel the registration fees are too high already ! By your organization establishing the Electronic Copyrighting Registrations helped ease the current high fees. The length of time to go through all of the steps using the Electronic Copyrighting Registration process is a slow and takes too long, but I put up with it since it lowered the registration fee. I'm against the raising of the copyright registration fees. It will add an increased financial burden on all photographers who are being squeezed to accept less for their photographic work and services. By having increased copyright registration fees, photographers who regularly register their photographs will register them less often due to the fees and new photographers will not even bother to register the copyrights to their photographs due to the high fees and complexities of the Electronic CR Filing. There are numerous copyright violators throughout our country and world who have no respect for the copyright laws. They know photographers have a hard time policing their own works on line and very few violators ever get caught. They use this fact to their advantage. They know many photographers do not have enough financial resources to pursue every violation. By the Copyright Office raising of the copyright registration fees, they are exacerbating this problem.

The raising of the copyright registration fees, reminds me of the increase of Gasoline prices in our country. It's pure greed by the big guy squeezing the little guy. The increase in gasoline prices have affected our country's economy and jobs. Its really hurting the middle class's purchasing habits. Increases in copyright registration fees, will have a secondary affect the US Economy. This will cause photographers to switch to other professions that are not being squeezed as much. The less photographers and visual creatives, we have working in our country, will reduce the volume of legitimate creative works for advertising and products, which generate income and profits . I do not know about you, but people in this country are tired of working hard at what they do and getting less in return, than what they think they should. Especially, when its taken away in taxes and fees.

The raising of the copyright registration fees is penalizing photogrpahers who regularly register their copyrights to their photographs with your office. Please look for other avenues of raising revenue that won't affect photographers and creative visual professionals. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Duane V. Gamble,  
Photograher