Emily Ling
Medical & Scientific Visualization

July 20. 2015

Dear Copyright Office:

My name is Emily Ling and it was recently brought to my attention that The Copyright Office has sent out a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) regarding a proposed law for "orphan works." I have a general understanding of the proposal and I believe that this "solution" to handling "orphan works" will impact my future in a negative way.

I am a second year Masters Candidate in the Department of Art as Applied to Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. I graduated from the University of California, Irvine in 2011 with a Bachelor's of Science in Biological Sciences.

I am currently training to become a medical and scientific illustrator and have invested a significant amount of time and resources into my education and training. Among other points in the proposal, one that concerns me is the secondary registration of my work. It seems, based on the information provided, that I would have to pay the copyright office to officially copyright my work as well as register with a 3rd party registry. Nowhere does it define who these 3rd party registries are, nor does it state how registration would be done. Would I have to pay twice just to ensure that my work will not be perceived as an "orphaned work"? What way is there to confirm that a potential infringer of my work has actually performed a "good faith" search for who the owner is? This all seems like more paperwork for me, the creator, to protect my livelihood and profession.

Also, due to the nature of being a commercial illustrator, I have become increasingly aware and concerned about retaining my rights to the work I create. Ensuring that I have the right to my work is how I intend to create a living out of the career path I have chosen. In addition to this, the time and attention I would need to invest to protect my copyrights would be detrimental to my productivity in creating new works. Finally, if I lose the copyrights to my works then it can negatively impact any future relationships with the clients for whom the work was created.

Again, I want to state that I believe that the proposed changes will negatively affect my future career, livelihood, and creativity.

Thank you for listening to some of my concerns regarding this NOI.

Sincerely,

Emily Ling

M.A. Candid0ate in Medical and Biological Illustration

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Department of Art as Applied to Medicine