Cagle Cartoons, Inc.
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July 22, 2015

Karen Claggett
Associate Register of Copyrights
Director of Policy and International Affairs U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, U.S. Copyright Office, Library of Congress

Orphan Works and Mass Digitization (79 FR 7706)

Dear Ms. Claggett,

I am writing in response to the Notice of Inquiry published in the April 24, 2015 Federal Register.

I own a small business, Cagle Cartoons, Inc., that syndicates the work of about 60 editorial cartoonists to over 850 subscribing newspapers, including over half of America's daily, paid-circulation newspapers. Our online database of close to 200,000 cartoons can be seen at http://politicalcartoons.com. We've won three of the past five Pulitzer Prizes in Editorial cartooning.

Even as the newspaper industry suffers, editorial cartoons remain more important than ever. Much of the world sees the public debate in America only through editorial cartoons. Every state in America has editorial cartoons on their state mandated testing in 8th and 11th grade. We're the loudest voices on the editorial pages; we're the victims of terrorist attacks and mass public demonstrations around the world simply because our art form is so effective and visible.

I am concerned that the Copyright Office may introduce rules that could be an economic blow to our small, high profile profession because of misunderstandings about how our business works, as new rules are developed for copyright protection in the future. The proposal that cartoonists submit each cartoon to a private, for-profit, online database service to secure copyright protection is a potential, costly threat.

Our editorial cartoonists make their income by licensing their entire bodies of work, typically thousands of cartoons, rather than by selling one cartoon at a time. We post about 25 new cartoons per day. A typical editorial cartoonist draws four new cartoons per week.

Our 850+ subscribing newspapers have general subscriptions to all of our content; editors visit our site and search for cartoons by keyword. Our cartoonists don't know which newspapers publish their cartoons; editors don't report to us on which cartoons they publish and we don't make our client list available to anyone, including the cartoonists, as is industry practice.

The notion that editorial cartoonists would have to upload thousands of images into a private database is a nightmare for our profession. The cost of registering thousands of images, along with the time it would take to upload each image would be impractical. It would be impossible for editorial cartoonists to comply with requirements that artists cite the publication in which their cartoons appeared, and the date of publication. In fact, providing any kind of unique information about each of thousands of cartoons would be impractical, unaffordable or impossible.

I urge you not to crush our profession, and chill the public, political debate, by imposing costly, new copyright requirements on editorial cartoonists.

Truly,

Daryl Cagle

Daryl Cagle, Editorial Cartoonist
Site: http://cagle.com
Store: http://politicalcartoons.com
Syndicate: http://caglecartoons.com
Blog: http://darylcagle.com
Twitter: dcagle