David Fielding
839 Blackburn Road,
Sewickley, PA 15143
(412) 741 7051

7/21/2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been a professional illustrator for 23 years. During that time I have worked for others as well as publishing my own work. My work can be viewed at www.ideasrealized.com and www.catholiccastle.com. I am a full member of the Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators. My daughter has also begun doing illustration work and is an affiliate member.

Also, I am finalizing a business plan which will establish me as a publisher in the full sense of publishing other people's work. This publishing project will begin as a printable online magazine and its test prototype is at www.castleofgrace.com.

I write to convey my alarm at the changes in copyright law that are being proposed. If made law, they would harm me both as a creator and publisher, and also my daughter.

To give just one example, I created hundreds of illustrations for a Life of Christ, which have appeared in print and online. I am now re-using them in a new project. The new proposals would seem to make it possible for anyone to access and re-use my illustrations in a publication of his or her own, which might contain editorial content objectionable to me. Also, the books making up my new project will be for sale and the value of the project will be diminished if the same illustrations are available elsewhere. Then again, who will know for sure whether or not I was the original creator? Someone could marginally alter my work and pass it off as his or her own "derivative" work. Would I be mentioned as the original creator? I think not! Therefore, my brand image would suffer.

As a publisher, my business model calls for an immediate online use of the images created for me, followed by print publications carrying the same, and finally the incorporation of those images in movie-style presentations. I will be using the images over a lifespan of many years (and paying the artists a royalty). Under the new proposals, the images could be taken and widely used elsewhere before I had even completed my own first round of use.

The illustrations *do not* lose their value at first publication. Illustrations can have long lifetimes and can be a source of income throughout that time. That income

belongs in justice to those who created or commissioned the illustrations in the first place.

It is vital to me both as an illustrator and publisher that I should be able to control the use of images created or purchased by me. I am distressed that the document proposing these changes in copyright law talk of a “level playing field,” whereas the pressure for change is coming from big-money organizations, and the other players are small people like me, with very little money, who depend on our creative talents to earn a livelihood.

As for registering my work: I have *thousands* of images. Where would I find the time to register each one? I am self-employed. Every minute I spent on that would be lost to me: another hit against my income.

My work is my property, created through thousands upon thousands of hours of labor. It is a store of value that I draw upon for my livelihood. It would absolutely unjust that anyone should be able to take my work and monetize it for his own benefit, without compensation or even reference to me. As far as I am concerned, it would be theft, pure and simple. Also, it is the route to chaos, and then to unemployment, for people will quit the field of illustration.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider. I embarked on my illustration work in the first place in the understanding that I could rely on copyright protection. I can only ask you not to void that now.

Sincerely,

David Fielding