July 21, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress

Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

To Whom it May Concern:

I am the owner of Lucent Vignette Photography, a small photography studio in Central Tennessee. We offer various forms of photography to our clients, but focus mainly on portrait photography for individuals and families.

Our business is heavily dependant on the Copyright laws that were enacted in 1978. We rely on these laws to protect our images, and our right to charge for them. These laws make the basis of our business structure and our studio income.

The proposed laws create several overly burdensome challenges for our business. First, all images that we release to our clients will need to be registered. This fee will need to be assumed somehow in the course of our operations, which will mean that we will pass this fee on to our clients. Our fees will rise, and this will obstruct some clients from retaining our services.

Currently, we release images to our clients through the web and in print. Under this new proposal, we would not be able to leverage fees for print or web services. We would not be able to retain our rights to these photographs after releasing them to our clients. This will, in effect, limit our income. I believe this to be illegal.

Registering our images, regardless of the fee involved, would give unintended access to those images. When I photograph a child, I make certain assurances that those photographs are restricted, that my clients should not worry that their children's images are scattered about the internet. Under this proposal, I can no longer make those assurances. This will be a major factor in the success of my business in the future.

Finally, these new proposals will strip any visual artist of certain basic rights. We will lose our rights to our own creation. We will lose the right to guard our creations, or protect them through the law. We will lose representation in the court of law. We will be forced to purchase the rights to our own works.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns. I know that I am one voice among many, though I hope that voice is growing, and will be heard.

Sincerely,
Dole McVeigh
Owner
Lucent Vignette Photography