Daniel Powers

U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

Dear Administrators of the Copyright Office,

I appreciate you allowing me the opportunity to tell about myself and why I believe that the current copyright laws should not be rewritten.

I am a professional illustrator who has created over twenty children's books, has created illustrations for innumerable magazines, and has created imagery for various product packaging. I have worked in the industry for nearly forty years and have received numerous awards and accolades for my work. While all of my books are individually copyrighted by the publisher, the work I have done for editorial and advertising illustration is are things that I copyright; I have had to occassionally pursue legal action for copyright infringement, and the current law has supported me in all of these these legal matters.

I am also Professor of Illustration at the Savannah College of Art and Design where I teach burgeoning illustrators, whose financial future depends on current copyright law. What's more, I am the Graduate Coordinator of the Illustration Department, overseeing the professional practices, i.e., the application of current copyright law, of nearly sixty graduate students.

Freelance illustrators do not sell their artwork; rather, they grant limited print rights to clients for a fee. Current copyright law protects the rights of freelance illustrators and enables us to fairly compete in the marketplace. We depend on current copyright law as copyright infringement is a common occurance, especially with the continual growth of the Internet. One example of this all-too-common occurance can be found at Wallpart (wallpart.com), an online poster-printing company; the artwork of nearly every artist/illustrator I know, and dozens of my students' artworks, are being sold on this site without permission from the artist. Current copyright law allows artists legal recourse to common infringements like these.

Recently a client for whom I created a series of packaging illustrations used these images outside of the terms of our original contract; current copyright law allowed me to renegotiate an equitable usage fee for this infringement.

Because much of the work that I create is in book form or for the Internet, the proposed changes to copyright law as it pertains to orphaned works worries me, as it seems to me that these changes will not longer protect the originator of these works. Why would the Copyright Office which to grant public access to copyrighted works simply

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because people are too lazy to determine who holds the current copyright, allowing them to get the work for free?

I have worked very hard to be able to support myself as a freelance illustrator. I have invested tens of thousands of dollars in my career and education. Now, working as an educator as well as an illustrator, it is important that I do what I can to voice my concerns about the proposed changes to our current copyright law.

Please do not make changes to current copyright laws that would effectively grant usage to copyrighted works to groups or individuals over the rights of the originators of the work itself.

I appreciate your time and concern in this matter.

Warmly,

Daniel Powers

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