

The Licensing Connection

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE U.S. COPYRIGHT OFFICE LICENSING SECTION

Happy Birthday, Licensing Section!

As we enter into our forty-fifth year, I want to highlight a few of the significant Licensing Section milestones from over the years:

October 1976: Congress enacted the cable license in the Copyright Act of 1976.

April 1978: The Licensing Division opened its doors.

November 1988: Congress enacted the satellite license in the Satellite Home Viewer Act.

October 1992: Congress enacted the DART license in the Audio Home Recording Act of 1992.

October 2006: The Copyright Office mandated that operators pay statutory license royalty fee payments by electronic funds transfer.

September 2012: The Licensing Division released its first newsletter, The Licensing Connection (TLC), to stakeholders.

January 2014: Congress authorized filing fees under the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA).

July 2017: The Copyright Office allowed cable systems operating under the section 111 statutory license to electronically sign and submit statements of account (SOAs) to the Licensing Division.

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PHOTO BY STANLEY MURGOLO

The Copyright Office held a celebration in April to celebrate the Licensing Section turning forty-five. Register Shira Perlmutter congratulates Licensing staff for their hardwork and dedication in support of the Office's mission throughout the years.

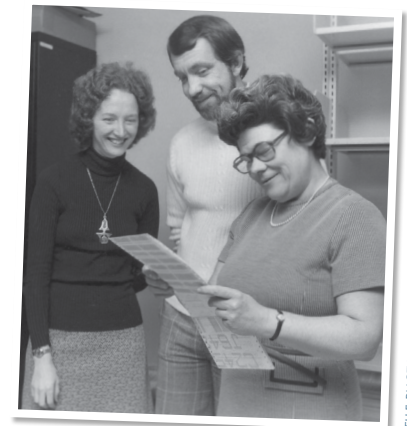
Licensing Section Turns Forty-Five

NICOLE LAMBERSON

The Copyright Act of 1976 created several statutory licenses for the Copyright Office to administer, leading to the formal **establishment of the Licensing Division** (now Licensing Section) forty-five years ago. The section was charged with implementing several provisions of the law, which took effect January 1, 1978.

Initially, the section was responsible for administering four licenses. Over the years, as technology and copyright needs changed, the licenses administered by the section also changed. “The Licensing Section’s statute was written for cable systems and copyright as it existed in 1976, and both the technology for getting programming in people’s homes and copyright law in general has changed,” noted Examining Unit head Tim Howe, who has been with the section since 2001 and is its second-most senior staff member. “Our particular statute has been revised at least three times. . . . A number of the compulsory licenses have changed: jukeboxes have gone the way of the dodo.”

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On January 25, 1978, Barbara Ringer holds the first licensing certificate issued to a jukebox operator. To her right is Jon Brightman of the Library’s Automated Systems Office; Susan Aramayo, the first Licensing Section chief.

July 2021: The Copyright Office allowed satellite systems operating under the section 119 statutory license to electronically sign and submit SOAs to the Licensing Division.

July 2022: The Copyright Office updated its EFT payment options (Pay.gov) for royalty and filing fee payments, providing stakeholders with a new public form to streamline their payment process.

I am also pleased to announce the Licensing Section's recent achievements:

- We enhanced our customer service by providing examined cable SOAs on the Licensing Section's [website](#).
- We successfully implemented the modernization of our fiduciary business operations by converting and migrating data to Momentum, a financial system used across the government, which provides the section with a centralized system to collect and invest royalties from our stakeholders.
- We resumed full hours of operations in the Copyright Public Records Reading Room.
- We received an unmodified or "clean" audit opinion of the statutory licensing fiduciary asset financial statements for the **sixth consecutive year**.

As we lean into year forty-five, I want to reiterate our commitment to providing optimal customer service, meticulous management of the Licensing Section's fiduciary assets, and the continued, accurate examination of SOAs.

Cheers to forty-five years!

Best regards,
Tracie M. Coleman, Chief



Tracie Coleman, right, with former licensing staff Ruth Pearson, and Tony Newton at the Licensing Section's 45th anniversary celebration.

Tracie Coleman, left, with former register of copyrights Marybeth Peters.



FILE PHOTO

Today, the section administers seven licenses, including for secondary transmissions by cable systems (section 111), secondary transmissions and local retransmissions by satellite carriers (sections 119 and 122), distribution of digital audio recording devices and media (section 1003), making ephemeral recordings (section 112), for public performance of sound recordings by digital audio transmission (section 114), and making and distributing phonorecords (section 115).

In addition to the law, Licensing Section chief Tracie Coleman has observed many changes within the section in technology, services, and processes. Coleman joined the section in 2007 on a detail as project manager and then served as head of the Information Section (now Information Unit) until taking over as chief in 2020. "I've seen quite a bit of change and growth over my time here," she said. "Our work has been driven by changing technology and customer service, and we've provided more accessible filing and payment options, made our records more available to the public, and increased our outreach efforts."

Recent successes for the section include introducing an electronic filing option for cable and satellite statements of account in 2017 and implementing a single payment system to streamline the process and offer stakeholders more payment options in 2022. The section is also celebrating the online release of **completed examination records** in March 2023. The digitization project,

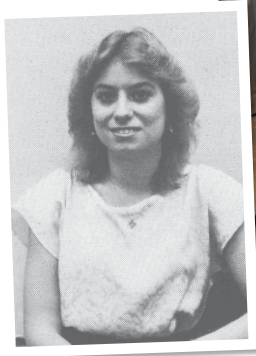
which began in 2019, gives the public access to the section's records without having to come on-site. Additionally, the section is developing the Enterprise Copyright System's Licensing Module. The new module will reduce in-processing time, reduce or eliminate errors related to manual data entry, and decrease examination times.

Information Unit head Oreon Pinkston, the section's newest staff member, noted current industry trends may move the section away from satellite and cable licenses in the future, but he is focused on everything the section can do to help serve its stakeholders. "I am most excited about making our records more accessible and understandable to the public under the Copyright for All initiative and enhancing the use of our records by becoming more of a digital office instead of a paper-based one."

Coleman is also focused on the section's obligation to stakeholders and the continued success of staff: "Our fiduciary responsibility is to our stakeholders, and we manage that money very effectively. We've had five clean audit opinions; our financial statements are impeccable—kudos to the fiscal team," she underscored, before praising the entire team for their collaboration. "We all work as a team, and that's one thing I appreciate the Licensing Section. Even though the Fiscal Unit works with the auditors to respond to questions, the Information Unit pulls the records, and the Examining Unit helps explain the examination process."

An Interview with Donna Loy

To commemorate the Licensing Section's forty-fifth year, we interviewed our longest-serving staff member, senior licensing examiner Donna Loy, about her experiences working in the Licensing Section.



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PHOTO BY STANLEY MURGOLO

Left: Portrait of Donna Loy when she joined the Licensing Section as a Records Maintenance Clerk. Above: Licensing Section staff pose for a group photo at the Copyright Office. Donna Loy pictured front row center.

When did you start your career with the Licensing Division (now Licensing Section)?

My career in the Library of Congress started in 1985 as a temporary worker in the Congressional Research Service. From there, I began working in the Licensing Section as a program assistant in 1986 within the Information Unit.

Describe one of your fondest memories of working in the Licensing Section?

One of my fondest memories while working in the Licensing Section was when I finally

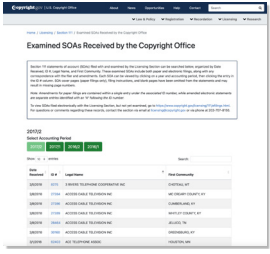
reached my goal of becoming an examiner in the Examining Unit. This had been a goal of mine for a while so I was elated when I had finally gained the proper experience and skills needed to qualify to become one.

What advice would you give to someone applying for a position in the Licensing Section?

I would say that having a strong work ethic and being selfless are two important qualities to have when applying for a position within the Licensing Section. I would also add that being willing to learn as much as possible is also vital asset to have.

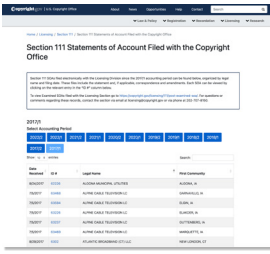
Can you define the legacy you want to leave when your time in the Licensing Section ends?

When I retire from the Licensing Section, I want people to remember my work ethic. I work as hard as I can to help and assist in any way possible. Even if that work isn't always in my unit, I still go above and beyond to make sure the work gets done. I also want people to remember my bright and warm personality. I genuinely love working here in the Licensing Section; I've been here for thirty-eight years, and I plan to stay until I retire.



Examined SOAs Now Available Online

Examined statements of account (SOAs) for the 2016.1 through 2017.2 accounting periods are now available online, with more recent accounting periods to follow. Once the most recent holdings are available, the section plans to also make cable SOAs from the 2010 to 2015.2 accounting periods available for viewing. The records can be found on the Licensing Section's [website](#).

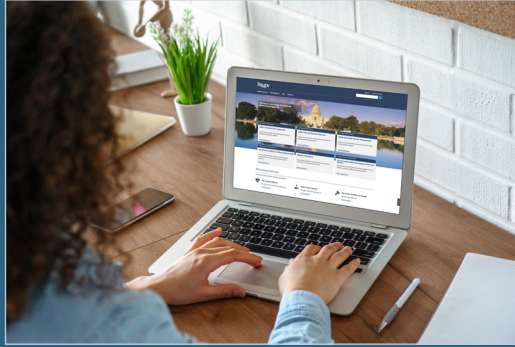


Licensing Section to Cease Returns of Electronically Submitted Statements

Beginning with the 2023/1 accounting period, the Licensing Section will no longer return signed PDFs of received electronic statements of account (eSOAs). These statements will be available on the Licensing Section's webpage, **Section 111 Statements of Account Electronically Filed with the Copyright Office**, and will be updated weekly as the section processes the statements.

Pay.gov Reminder

As of July 1, 2022, remitters are encouraged to use the U.S. Treasury Department's Pay.gov system to submit EFT payments for current, past, and future royalty and filing fees. Using Pay.gov benefits both remitters and the Copyright Office because it ensures that the Office can receive, reconcile, and post payments in the same transaction. It also provides remitters with the convenience of using a credit or debit card as a form of payment. Most importantly, using Pay.gov eliminates the need for remitters to separately complete the remittance advice form. Instead, remitters provide the remittance advice form through Pay.gov at the same time they submit payments.



Licensing and Legislation

Copyright Royalty Judges Solicit Comments on Motions of Allocation Phase Claimants for Partial Distribution of 2020 Satellite and Cable Royalty Funds

The Copyright Royalty Judges solicited comments on a motion of Allocation Phase claimants for partial distribution of 2020 satellite royalty funds. For more information, click [here](#).

Copyright Royalty Judges Announce Receipt of Intent to Audit

The Copyright Royalty Judges announced the receipt from SoundExchange, Inc., of a notice of intent to audit the 2020, 2021, and 2022 statements of account submitted by commercial webcaster licensee Salem Media Group concerning royalty payments it made pursuant to two statutory licenses. For more information, click [here](#).

Important Reminders for 2023/1

SATELLITE: The **\$725 filing fee per statement** in addition to the appropriate royalty fee is to be filed between **July 1 and July 30**, inclusive.*

CABLE: The **filing fee (\$15 for SA-1, \$20 for SA-2, or \$725 for SA-3)** per statement in addition to the appropriate royalty fee is to be filed between **July 1 and August 29**, inclusive.*

* Please remit the royalty fee and filing fee in one EFT payment.

For more information visit our [website](#).

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