

David H. Wells

Narrative Photography

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To whom it may concern:

I write in reference to the proposed fee increases at the United States Copyright Office. I am a publication photographer with almost 30 years of professional experience (membership in ASMP, NPPA, etc.) I have been registering my work diligently since 2001, when bulk registration was implemented. I register about once a month, submitting 400 to 800 images per registration. When I teach workshops I encourage all my students to do the same.

The proposed new fees will adversely impact this. I fully understand the need to raise fees to keep up with costs and so raising the the form VA fee to \$45 for an electronic form, through eCO, (which is all I use) would be annoying but not insurmountable.

I am quite concerned that increased fees will deter me and other photographers from registering their images because of the higher cost. Even if I can afford the cost, getting the average young photographer to register their work is real hard sell, and raising the price so high will make that even more difficult.

Making the registration process more expensive is not a way for the Copyright Office and the Library of Congress to fulfill its mission "To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries"

Thanks for your attention

David H. Wells

11 South Angell #171 , Providence, R.I. 02906

401 261 4528 / David@DavidHWells.com

www.DavidHWells.com