

RE: Proposed Fee Increases

The U.S. Copyright Office is proposing to raise fees for the registration of claims, recordation of documents, special services, Licensing Division services, and processing of FOIA requests. This includes the registration of photographs using form VA through eCO or paper filings.

The basic change for photographers would be an electronic filing that now has a fee of \$35 would go to \$65. A paper filing that now is \$65 would go to \$100.

These increases are excessive and an affront. Our economy is barely sputtering along, yet these fee increases are respectively 85% and 53%, far beyond the reach of inflation. The increases would discourage registration by making it excessively expensive, thus denying the full protections for expression that all artists deserve. These proposed fee increases will be an excessive burden to my business.

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” (U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8)

I respectfully request these proposals be rescinded and the fee structure left intact as is.

Yours,
Jeffrey Stevensen