

2012-05-10

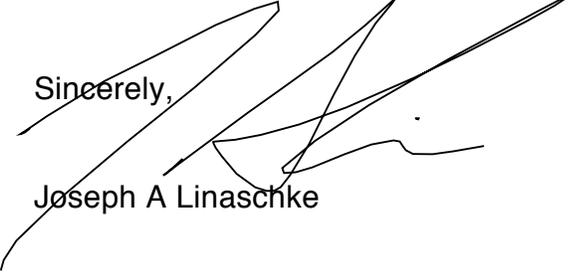
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RE: "new fees for the registration of claims, recordation of documents, special services, Licensing Division services, and processing of FOIA requests."

I'm writing to strongly suggest that the fees for copyright NOT be raised. As it is the \$35 fee encourages photographers to delay filing copyright until a larger collection of images is ready to file, which not only puts the photographer further at risk, but also raises the chance that the images will never be filed. Add a raised fee to the already ludicrously complex steps in filing for copyright and the quantity of filings will likely drop dramatically. Those photographers who are well established with studios and high cash flow may not be bothered by this, but the small company, or photographer just starting out, will be further discouraged from filing copyright. If and when they end up in court fighting for their rights, they'll stand little to no chance of winning. Everyone loses, except the copyright violators.

Make copyright filing easier and LESS expensive, not more, if you truly want the artists of this country to be protected by copyright law.

Sincerely,



Joseph A Linaschke