

As a freelance photographer in a digital era, I have to take many steps to protect my work and my business, one of which includes registering the copyright of my images. With the ease of copying images and relatively low profit as it is after considering equipment, hosting, and ouch expended resources I tend to have a low profit margin already. A near doubling of the registration fee would remove that already thin margin and make it difficult to protect myself. I do nfeel that increased fees will deter the registration of images by photographers, thus removing any leverage they have should they find their images harvested and used by other entities. Without the disincentive the potential of having to pay statutory damages, I fear infringement will become even more prevalent since many that infringe upon a copyright will figure that even fewer photographers will take the steps to have registered the images because of the expense. I do not feel that the proposed fee increase promotes the progress of science and useful arts as it creates an even higher hurdle that one must overcome in order to seek due protection of the law.

Michael Blich
Tampa, Florida