

The idea of a copyright small claims court appeals to many, especially small businesses. Many small business owners like myself don't have thousands of dollars for attorneys to handle copyright infringement lawsuits. However, many are capable of presenting their cases in a small claims court.

As a writer, I support the idea. 2012 is a good year for business. In the past seven months, I published two novels and a short story. Now for the negative. During that short time period, my work has been stolen and posted for free on pirate sites, denying me badly needed income. Parts of a novel have been used by someone else. I spend at least one hour of my workday searching for illegal postings of my copyrighted works and sometimes another hour performing computer maintenance to hunt for and eliminate Trojans and virus' placed in my computer network for the sole purpose of stealing copyrighted material.

Another business line in my venture involves collecting, recycling, and history. Part of my work involves photography of antiques, collectibles, antiquities, and recycled/repurposed goods. I cannot sell photographs because people steal them from websites and post as their own, again denying me income. Further, I provide DIY information on projects. To date, one series of photographs, accompanied by text, was heisted from my blog, used, and claimed by someone else. I simply cannot find upwards of \$20,000 (and more) in attorney fees to go after the person.

I urge you to form a copyright small claims court with utmost urgency. Writers, musicians, and photographers are ripped off everyday. We, as a collective group of artists, need a venue to defend our work and prosecute those who steal with no regard to copyright and artist income.