

C-Mathison-Leslie-20050318233003

To: Julie L. Sigall  
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 03/18/2005

From: Leslie C. Mathison

Comment:

The copyright office has the responsibility to keep up with owners of copyrights. However, if, after a specific and reasonable time the owner cannot be located or has not made contact to have the copyright renewed or extended, the office should give notice of 60-90 days and if the owner does not respond during that time, the "orphaned" copyright should be turned over to the public for free and unfettered use. Should the owner reveal himself at some later time, he should be prevented from asking for monetary or other damages.