Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress

Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

July 20, 2015

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff:

As a freelance illustrator and graphic designer, I and others like myself, make our living off of licensing use of artworks and designs. The majority of us, especially those having recently graduated, aren't pulling in significant money from these pursuits. These new copyright laws will disproportionately affect those who are still establishing themselves and can't afford to pursue legal protection of their works.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?

Worrying about copyright law protecting corporations over individuals.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

Keeping track of use of work overseas or even domestic print-on-demand sites. High costs of legal fees, lack of thorough information and access to that information. Lack of knowledge of 'legalese' needed to parse this information. Damages collected in a legal case would possibly be too small to find a lawyer to work for free or for cheap to be worth their time.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

Registration would become yet another financial burden on artists and designers, as well as a time burden. Works created under existing copyright law would need to be tediously registered or digitized. For artists who create large volumes of work like photographers, the need to register each individual photograph could put a halt to all creative output.

4. What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations?

Probably being able to track down the originators of the works because theft is very easy on the internet, and people can claim Fair Use.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?

> The only people who would come out on top with this new legislation would be corporations who can absorb all associated costs. Secondary licensing by digital publishers is harming visual artists.

I hope the Copyright Office will consider all the letters submitted about this topic and work towards a solution that doesn't harm visual artists, and will instead work with them to craft better policies.

Thank you for letting us submit our opinions regarding the proposals and letting us have a say in our futures.

Sincerely,

Rachel Shneyer