Barefoot Contessa
PHOTO ADVENTURES
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www.BCphotoadventures.com

Date: April 29, 2015
To: Copyright Office
Re: Making Sure Copyright Laws Protect Small, Photographer/Artist Businesses

- Make sure that images placed on Social Media such as Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc. have a grace period for registering, as the success of using these media depends upon daily or near-daily postings; if we have to register before each posting, at $55/per registration, that could add up to over $20,000/year in copyright registration fees;
- Make sure that images placed on websites and blogs also have a grace period for registering for the same reasons as above;
- Make requirements and guidelines for websites clearer; ask several different intellectual-property counsel, and you will get as many opinions;
- Make it illegal for companies such as Facebook to strip all file names and metadata from images posted there;
- Make it easier for individual photographers to sue major corporations for copyright infringement; right now, at a minimum, it costs over $10,000 to even start such a suit, and large corporations have deep pockets and can out-wait and out-spend an individual; yes, the individual can collect damages afterwards, but most artists, including photographers do not have that kind of spare cash to get that far, regardless of how obvious the infringement;
- Remember, those who represent corporations have health insurance, retirement benefits, high salaries, etc.; individual artist have to pay for everything themselves with no help from anyone.

Sincerely,

Margo Taussig Pinkerton
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