VOTE NO TO THE ORPHAN WORKS BILL

Kathy Konkle
212 420 5970
Kathy@konkle.com

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

I'm a stock illustrator and 90% of the people who have lifted my art off of the internet for their websites and blogs have not paid for the art. They completely ignore copyright law since they know I can not afford to take them to court over one stock illustration or icon.

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

It's impossible to sue everyone. I might sue a big corporation if they stole my art but it is not possible for me to find a lawyer to take a case for free for some minor infringement.

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

I can only keyword. Metadata and upload about 20 to 30 images in a day to my stock illustration website. If I have to upload them all to a copyright agency as well my productivity will be cut in half. I have 5,000 images online. I could not afford the fee to register them all or the time spent uploading

them to a registration agency.

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?

Doesn't matter. If they cant find the owner of an image they would like to use then they need to just use something else. It's their tough luck. I can't give up my ability to make a living off of the copyright to my art just so somebody can use an image just because they want to. I don't care what you want. We don't always get what we want.

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

The copyright registration offices are subject to corruption once they have all the digital images and client lists. Theres nothing to stop these people from exploiting the image banks.

You can't trust people to be honest with us and with themselves that they really did a diligent search. They could just say they tried and couldn't find the owner. Since any reverse image search would find the image exclusively for sale at istockphoto I'm supposed to challenge this person and say you didn't do a good enough search for the owner of the art? Now im supposed to spend $100,000 to take them to court to challenge them? All of them?

This entire orphan works bill sounds like a license to steal art. You cant pass a law that says if I don't register my art

anyone can take it. That would mean anyone can lift your unregisterd photo off of facebook and use it in their ad campaign. And even if it was registered then it would be up to you to get a lawyer and sue which is very expensive.

You need to strengthen copyright law and protect the creators and stand up to this corporate money grab that is trying to take the copyright away from the artists for their own financial gain.