Respond to five questions on copyright law:

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

As an individual artists creating photographs, art objects and drawings, I have limited access to expensive avenues to publish and sell my work. The internet has equalized the playing field for me. I can expose my art to millions of potential buyers and negotiate the selling of my art without the middle man. But if others can take my work from the Net and sell it as their own, then I can't make a living as a creator.

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

The only way I have of enforcing the way I want my artwork displayed or used is through my right to own what I create. If I can label that work and know the law will protect my rights to how it is used then my occupation has dignity and respect. If not, then I am a talented slave to anyone wanting to make money off my ability.

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

If a new law will requires me to contact and pay a private company to make my creative right legal, then you will force me to spend my profits and my worktime doing paperwork on over a thousand pieces of art I can produce in a lifetime. I don't create my art to pay bean counters!

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?

Artists under this new law will be at the mercy of greedy businesses and shareholders who want to ride on the backs of creative individuals. That does not sound like the America I want to call my home or my work environment.

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

If artists are not treated fairly, then perhaps we will just say no and business leaders create their own text and images. Hackers and crashes could move from the financial arena to the media arena.

Bettie Lake, Artist