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ADRIAN C. SINNOTT

United States Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I am writing in response for your call for letters regarding the drafting of a new Copyright Act.

As an illustrator, with more than 35 years experience, I am gravely concerned for the future of my profession. We are at a moment in time when stronger protection of the creator's rights are needed, not a change that would weaken rules that are already being flaunted on a daily basis.

My work encompasses children's, humorous and technical illustration work for both advertising and industry. I have been published in numerous national magazines, publishing houses and my work is sought after by many advertising agencies.

My business relies on the value of that work, not only upon initial publication but for subsequent uses. Professional businesses understand the need to compensate artists if they wish to reprint their work. The cost of the time spent creating a work is often not covered in the first sale but only after multiple reprints. To try and cover that initial cost without the possibility of future revenue would require a drastic increase in my initial fee. Which, in turn, would cancel many projects.

Should someone wish to reuse my work, I can be quickly found on the internet. My website is the first listing to appear when searching my name. However, it is much easier in today's electronic age to just remove my name and copyright, use the work, and hope I don't notice. Years of abuse have made the average user believe that everything should be "free." However, they would be the first to complain if they were asked to work for no compensation.

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I should not be required to list my work with a commercial registry. If that became the standard, then every firm, in every line of work, should be required to list all of their production, stock and materials in a commercial registry. Open to all their competitors to see and copy.

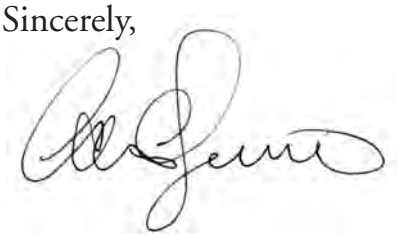
No other industry is required to give up their rights on how, when and where their work is used. As graphic artists and illustrators, the work we create is our "product," we need to be allowed to control the use of that product. It is our livelihood.

Using my work without permission is tantamount to theft. I have a right to be renumerated for my endeavors. If someone decides to ignore my rights and use my work, they should be required to face the consequences. Using my "product" with out permission is equivalent to walking into my house, taking my tools, computers, supplies, expertise and walking out. All in the knowledge that there would be nothing I can do to stop them. As much as my computer is a tangible asset, so is the work I create.

The proposed changes will mean a reduction in the creative work produced in this country. Why create it if you do not own it? It smacks of communism. Weakening the existing laws would be the nail in an already struggling industry. Doing so would threaten the livelihood of many thousands of American taxpayers.

I, respectfully, ask that you consider the damage that will be done to the individual creator. We do not have the great resources that are available to those pushing for their version of the "reform" of the copyright laws. I hope that in your reasoned, intelligent decision you will understand the predicament we, as artists and business owners, will face if these changes are implemented as proposed.

Sincerely,



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