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July 22, 2015

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

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01Office Staff)

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff:

I am an illustrator and entrepreneur who will see significate loss to our financial and family's stability if these proposed changes to Copyright Law are pushed through. Others have seen the potential in reaching our clients globally, ahead of us, and simply wish to capitalize of our works because they do not share in respecting the sacrifices we make to create. I have learned to never lose hope. So I am writing this letter that you will not allow these proposed changes, or any future changes, to endanger Copyright Law and the livelihoods of so many more creatives. Especially for those who have been purposefully left in the dark so that other might profit behind closed doors.

The below questions are a part of a sample letter that many of us, creatives, are using as a stepping off point to express our deep distress over the proposed changes and loss of our copyrights.

1. What is the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing, photographs, graphic artwork and/or illustrations?
2. What are the most significant enforcements challenges or photographers, graphic artist and/or illustrations?
3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artist and/or illustrations?
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? (This question made me feel ill.)
5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs graphic art works and/or illustrations?

Fact: It is simply our Constitutional Right to own, keep, and profit from the use of our own body of work to support ourselves, our families and our community. From that work, through the respect and understanding of copyrights, we have been able to share inspiration within the creative community: artists, sculptors, writers, designers and engineers, etc. Many of whom would not be able to continue in their craft and also profit (at all income levels) from their own labors without copyright safeguards. We are not an untapped oil field for global profit. Ours creative foundation is firmly supported in copyrights, regardless any already blurred lines of the Fair Use Act. It is my belief that the above questions should be intended to only shed light upon and support our right to preserve our creative processes, development and business practices. It is also my fear that these same enquiries can be twisted to infer

weaknesses and/or less-profitable ventures that will be exploited by other industries – those who will surely receive financial gain with the removal of our copyrights. I do not intend on doing their research for them. Please respect the information that we all are entrusting with you. We are quite confident that this issue, to legalized copyright theft, will raises its ugly head again.

Therefore, I will not be sharing my process; however, I sincerely ask that you to take my following words to heart. If I sound somewhat defensive, I respectfully agree with you; though, it is not my nature. Yet I will defend my hands, my home, my soul and future artists within our creative community - and in loving memory of someone else who toiled for his craft.

This is how the world of Copyright was introduced to me:

I did not grow up around other artists; however, my father, Richard C Wells, was my creative anchor. He was a child of the Great Depression, served in our US Air Force, and learned one trade that supported his whole life. He had a passionate heart for teaching and was an inventor. My whole life I watched him work hard with a generous spirit. He loved to solve problems and spent many years drafting and developing before engineering his designs. It was his passion, as is art is to me - his daughter. Being a creative is what we are; not what we do. Copyright to me, is what his Patents and Trademarks were supposed to be to him.

It will not matter to anyone, reading this, what those inventions or patents pertained. Just be assured that it was his soul, and he was brilliant. I went with him one day when had important business with his patent attorney. He was proud of me, his little artist in high school. I was there when his attorney informed him that his first invention/patent-pending was stolen by the mega-corporation. My father had foolishly showed some of his work to the wrong people for manufacturing purposes. My father was too trusting. I listen as the attorney yelled, saying: the corporation was too huge with international lawyers, so what that you have all the proof in the world that it is your work, it doesn't matter, you can never win, even if you fight your whole life, etc. You will just have to give in and sacrifice that first patent – he went on.

I'll never forget the tension in the room, as if I was witnessing someone being mortally wounded. Then the attorney proceeded to ask questions, warning my father to guard his other patents-pending and how his inventions were in danger of being stolen as well. You see, that international billion dollar corporation had taken this first product, and within weeks, had it in production and listed for release in their next technical catalog. It was that easy.

Then the attorney walked to filing cabinet, pulled out a VA copyright form, slammed his desk with it and turned to me saying, "Never show anyone your artwork unless you file one of these!" The meeting then ended; there was nothing else to say.

I never once heard my father curse the thieves. He did not drink, he understood hardship and hard work. He pushed with all furor his other inventions and patents. And when they began to show promise and a small profit, quite quickly, that very same billionaire company came back to him and asked to "lawfully" purchase the right to his other patents. They even sweeten the deal by offering him a portion of royalties from first invention/patent that they had "acquired". My father said, "No." And he

went back to work on manufacturing and developing all the aspects of his small business. He was even careful enough to have his parts manufactured in USA. He was wise but not driven by margins, he earned some profit; however, nothing compared to the 20+ years of research and development he had invested. Within a few short years he became sick, and he died. I was only 25. Patents have a short life span too. When it came time for them to be renewed, it was too costly for his widow, my mother. She is still alive and only living on social security and the care of family.

He will forever be Daddy. He had true charisma and a passion for everything he dreamed up and crafted with his hands. The inventions and tools he created were supposed to bless him and his family, as wells as elevate the lives of his students and those in his working industry. He understood the value of ownership in one's craft, and he equally valued the sharing of his knowledge, techniques, and processes to empower others. To me, he will remain forever the greatest man who ever lived because he understood the true value in everything - and in forgiveness. Out of respect to that, we as family rarely speak of the corporate-vultures that picked clean my father's body of work.

For most of my life I have been afraid to show my artwork. It is only through the mutual respect of our creative community that I have been able to grow my craft and help others to do the same. Do not give into those who would change Copyright Law into a vulgar abuse of intellectual property. Copyright is everything. It is way they want it so.

You will hear arguments regarding the coming/present digital age. I say there is no wealth in obtaining and cataloging the souls of others. What more words can I say? My life is ruled by imagery.

Sincerely with my Hands & Heart,

Margaret R Jewett

Margaret RosAnne Jewett (Anne Jewett)