United States Copyright Office:

The exclusive control of the copyright of the visuals that I create is critical to my being able to maintain a living as a Medical Illustrator and Fine Artist. The Copyrights that I maintain are an important source of income for my business. By retaining the copyrights to the artwork that I create, I am able to sell secondary rights to that work - an important source of revenue for my business. Copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but a key element that enables my business to exist.

The infringement of my work, or any copyrighted work is truly like stealing money from the creators of that work. It is imperative that as a visual artist, I be allowed to determine voluntarily how and by whom my work is used.

The work that I create absolutely does not lose its value upon publication. In my career of over 35 years, I have sold many secondary licenses to buyers that have equaled or exceeded the price of the original commission. As part of my business inventory, this revenue stream of secondary licenses has enabled me to not only remain in business, but to grow my business. Especially in the digital era, inventory is much more valuable to me, and all artists because of it's ready accessibility.

I would be completely against:

1.) ***The Mass Digitization*** of my intellectual property by corporate interests.

2.) ***Extended Collective Licensing -*** any form of socialized licensing that would replace voluntary business agreements between artists and their clients.

3.) ***A Copyright Small Claims Court*** to handle the flood of lawsuits expected to result from orphan works infringements.

Additionally, I would be against replacing all existing copyright law. I would be against voiding the Constitutional right to the exclusive control of the work that I create. I would be against the pressure to register my work with commercial registries. I would be against unregistered works to be considered orphan works. I would be against any orphaned work to be available for commercial infringement. I would be against the ability for others to alter my work and to copyright these "derivative works" in their own names.

Thank you for hearing my thoughts.

Mark Lefkowitz

Mark Lefkowitz, M.A. CMI (F) earned a Master's degree in Medical and Biological Illustration in 1979 from The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. He received the Annette Burgess award for excellence in ophthalmological illustration from the Department of Art as Applied to Medicine in 1979. He holds a BFA in Drawing/Printmaking, high honors, from The Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY (1976). Mark worked as a Medical Illustrator/Medical Illustrator Supervisor at Boston University Medical Center from 1979 – 1984, and launched his own company in 1984. His diverse range of clients include biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical product companies, museums, advertising agencies and publishers. He is the winner of

over 20 awards for his medical and biological illustrations from the Association of Medical illustrations, the RX Club, and the New York Society of Illustrators.

Mark is a Fellow of the Association of Medical Illustrators (AMI), and has been an active professional member since 1980. He has served on the Board of Governors of the AMI from 2001 – 2005, was the AMI Co-Editor of the Journal of Biocommunications, and was the recipient of the Association of Medical Illustrator's coveted "Outstanding Service Award" in 2006. He served as the President of the AMI from 2007 - 2009. He was also the founder of the Mentor Program of the AMI, and served as it's Chair from 2004 - 2013.