LEFT RIGHT BRAIN

July 22, 2015

Dear Copyright Office Professional,

My name is Marie Rossettie. I am a Board Certified Medical Illustrator and professional fine artist. I have a Masters of Science in Biomedical Visualization from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and obtained board certification through rigorous testing and portfolio reviews by the Association of Medical Illustrators. I maintain my certification through constant coursework and continuing education credits, and I have been successfully employed as a professional medical illustrator for more than a decade. While I am very aware that times are changing and that globalization, particularly through the internet, poses certain complexities to the traditional nature of copyright law, I beg you to consider the severity of consequences *The Next Great Copyright Act* could have on professional artists, including myself.

As a medical illustrator, I have invested a great deal to dedicate myself to my profession. Graduate school took nearly 3 years of my life, over $80,000 in tuition, and an additional 2 years were spent completing the exams for Board Certification. Why is this important? Because I went to medical school. I took gross anatomy, human pathophysiology, craniofacial anatomy, surgical illustration, histology, embryology, and many other courses to learn my craft. When I produce artwork, it is with utmost care and the application of highly complex knowledge that I can ensure its accuracy. This not only teaches physicians how to treat and operate on patients, but it also educates the general public that rely on my work to understand complex medical concepts.

Protecting copyright is important to me for several reasons. First and foremost, I consider my artwork and its licenses, company assets. When I authorize use of my work, I not only choose how and where it is used, but I also reap financial benefits from its placement in the world. Second, when I retain my copyright, I protect unauthorized people from altering it, thus ensuring its preciseness and the safety of those educating themselves by it. Third, my signature is a legacy of my skill; I rely on my work to speak for itself, and refer new clients to my business.

Current copyright laws are what allow my business to function. Infringement of my work not only deprives me of income, it puts the entire educational foundation of my profession and practice at risk. In a digital era, it is more important than ever to retain rightful ownership of one's work, and protect its integrity. Please consider the continuation of protection for artists; we work so very hard at what we do.

Respectfully yours,
Marie Rossettie, MS, CMI

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