July 22, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
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. 2015-01)

Dear Ms. Pallante and Copyright Office Staff,

I am an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Graphic Communications at the University of Maryland University College. I am also a member of the Society of Illustrators of NYC, a member of the American Society of Illustrator's Partnership, board member of the Illustrator's Club of Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia, and the Shenandoah Arts Council.

As a fine artist and illustrator, and have been working in the field since 1981. I have created images for various companies, publications, broadcast and internet venues. The volume of work compiles with each year, along with imagery created for local and personal dispersal.

My understanding is that the newly revised copyright law changes under consideration will require that I register my every image, sketch and proposal I have created in the last 44 years with a privately held database, with the inclusion of a fee, description of each, with metadata, year created, authorship, etc.

The vast amount of work required to upload and document my entire body of work is cost prohibitive, and time consuming. It would require that I devote my entire studio to creating a database of work, tracking past clients and copyright status of previously created works. Even if I could afford to hire an archivist to do this, I would be required to sit with them to explain each piece and its details.

Removing the rights of the artist as they currently stand will cause an huge burden upon me, an my heirs. I do not have much to pass on to my children, except the art I have created and the rights inherent. You are risking the only legacy I may have to give them upon my death. Should you toss out the current copyright rules, you risk the little recourse I have to protect my intellectual property.

My major challenge is the proposed language that would protect those that would infringe upon the art I've created. How can a business or person steal an image from the internet, make a few small changes, and call it their own? My work is NOT orphaned work, just because the infringer choses not to research my name, or the image's history. It is not MY issue, but theirs to obtain usage rights from me or my heirs – or DON'T use my image!

It is sad that you would consider changes where common decency and respect is being disregarded. What about the little guy? What about the creators? What about the little we have being snatched from out grip? Remember "Government for the People"?

Respectfully yours,

Paul W. Zdepski - (540) 533-4567
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