July 18, 2015

Dear Copyright Office,

I am writing you regarding the Next Great Copyright Act. I am a business owner, visual artist, writer and art gallery board member.

As an artist for 11 years, I must let you know that The Next Great Copyright Act interferes with our copyrights, which are the products we license. My work does not lose its value upon publication and often increases in value due to artist recognition. My art is catalogued, and it is my personal creation and inventory.

In this day of artists' websites, digital inventory and publication, it is vital that art works are protected and that the creators of these works, the artist, are able to voluntarily chose how and who uses their property.

A book does not lose its value when published, and neither does an artwork image. Infringement upon my work is stealing. It takes money from my pocket and my future earnings are pirated from me. This should not be allowed.

I ask respectfully that you consider my professional works and trade seriously, and protect my rights by rejecting The Next Great Copyright Act.

Sincerely,

Penny Ramos-Bennett

Curriculum vitae:

Penny Ramos-Bennett is a retired Ethnic Outreach Public Information Specialist from the Clark County School District in Nevada. She first ventured into art at the University of Nevada Las Vegas and expanded her time in studio, as a self-trained artist. Her unique use of collage in her oil, acrylic and ink work began out of an expression to highlight words used in news and reporting throughout a forty-year period of time. The words, when seen with visual imagery, can become a moving protest, which makes visual, the struggle and successes of racial and marginalized populations.

Ramos-Bennett's art consists primarily of protest pieces and religious imagery. The daughter of a social worker and politician, she was fortunate to march in support of Cesar Chavez's vision of equity in the 1970's, and for inclusion in the American dream.

Exhibitions
2004 Choice Center, Las Vegas, NV
2011 Springs Preserve Day of the Dead, Las Vegas, NV
2012-2014 City of the World Art Gallery, Las Vegas, NV
2013-2014 Village Foundation, Las Vegas, NV
2013 Summerlin Art Festival, Las Vegas, NV
2014 Autism Community Trust-Artists for Autism, Las Vegas, NV
2014 City of the World Art Gallery, featured artist, Las Vegas, NV
2014 Rape Crisis Center Denim Day Charity Auction, Las Vegas, NV
2014 PLAN Nevada, Charity Auction, Las Vegas, NV
2014-2015 Hispanic Museum of Nevada, Las Vegas

A graduate of UNLV in psychology, Ramos-Bennett remains active in the community and donates time as a member of the City of Las Vegas Latino Network, and Hispanic Museum of Nevada Board. Ramos-Bennett is a member of NAHJ and PRSA, Nevada Decoding Dyslexia Action group, and is an independent journalist, writing for the Latin Chamber of Commerce and Princess Party magazines in Nevada.