1 October 2015

To the Register of Copyrights, United States Copyright Office:

Thank you for the opportunity to reply to the initial comments generated by the Visual Arts Notice of Inquiry. As a self-employed illustrator, I support the comments submitted by the Illustrators Partnership regarding the Constitutional issues raised by the proposed orphan works legislation.

In my original comment, I supported the idea of a copyright small claims court. While I wish there were an easier way for creators to pursue infringement cases, the letter from the Illustrators Partnership brought up some important issues with the idea of a small claims court. I would support the argument put forth by the Illustrators Partnership.

I would like to repeat a point I made in my original comments, which is that your "Orphan Works and Mass Digitization" report (June 2015) gives me the impression that copyright law should exist primarily to facilitate people’s ability to legally make use of existing intellectual properties. In my view, that is a fundamental shift in purpose with potentially terrible consequences. I believe the primary purpose of copyright law is and should be to protect the rights of creators of intellectual property, thereby enabling creators to make a living and create more works.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.
Sincerely,

Emily S. Damstra
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