



gorydetails
illustration

ALEXANDRA HERNANDEZ, M.A.

October 1, 2015.

Catherine Rowland
Senior Advisor to the Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Comments on Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Dear Ms. Rowland & U. S. Copyright Office Staff:

I have been a professional freelance medical illustrator for over ten years and like many of the other commercial artist you have heard from, greatly rely on the current copyright laws to protect my work. My business model, and livelihood, depends upon me being able to control the use and distribution of my art and with me holding the copyright to my images. To that end, I've invested in registering much of my work through the U.S. Copyright Office – an investment that would be greatly devalued should the proposed changes be enacted. These changes would make it more difficult to protect against and pursue infringement. The creation of small claims courts would diminish the nature of the crime and make it much more difficult and costly for the artist to pursue justice. Requiring artists to apply for copyright protection in multiple places rather than just one would make it financially prohibitive, time consuming and even more vulnerable to infringement. In summary, the proposed changes would make the appropriation of artwork easier and more widespread than it already is and more difficult and costly for artists to protect their art, pursue infringements and be remunerated in the event of an infringement.

One of the keys to our success as a country has been that we have championed innovation and creation. Our laws have protected the intellectual property of those creators, thus fostering an environment where men and women can make a living through their creations. The proposed changes to the copyright law and introduction of orphan works legislation would so diminish the current protections that it would likely mean the end of many, many professional art careers.

Please consider my livelihood and that of other visual artists before making changes to the current law. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexandra B. Hernandez, M.A.
Principal & Medical Illustrator
Gory Details Illustration