

September 25, 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 Copyright Office Staff:

I'm a professional photographer and have been one since graduating high-school in 1985. I'm writing to let you know this is my lively hood and must protect my copyright with many others to have a business and put food on the table. My copyrights is my most valuable asset, licensing images is how I make a living.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?

If the existing copyright law is eroded this would have a significant impact on my ability and others to make a living as a creative professional. commercial stock image banks have undermined the markets for creative artists and there is every reason to believe that if registration is reintroduced as a condition of protecting our work that the new for-profit registries would act the way.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

With the high cost of legal fees it's difficult to enforce copyright unless you can find a lawyer that works on percentage's. Making any changes to the existing law would only make this more difficult. I'm against orphan works legislation.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

By shifting this commercial registries this would only put more burden on content creators. More Expense, more time. (unpaid)

4. What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations?

Many educational institutions, non-profit blogs, and individuals use my work considered fair use which I do not object to. But most instances are by commercial enterprises that use my work for-profit which I object to. Then there's large like companies like Pinterest, Google, and many others hide behind the veil of DMCA to support their for-profit enterprises while putting the burden on content creators to police their websites.

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5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?

Companies like Pinterest, Polyvore, Google and many others that use DMCA laws to get free content to support their for-profit enterprises. This takes a huge burden on content creators to file DMCA to have content removed.

My hope is the Copyright office will stand on the side of the individual and not be swayed by corporate interests. Please do not change copyright law as we know it.

Regards

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