



March 25, 2005

Mr. Jule L. Sigall  
Associate Register for  
Policy & International Affairs  
U. S. Copyright Office  
Copyright GC/I&R  
P. O. Box 70400  
Southwest Station  
Washington, D. C. 20024

John McLean  
Executive Director  
PH 323.782.4687  
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Dear Mr. Sigall:

With reference to the March 25th, 2005 letter written by Mr. Jay Roth, National Executive Director on behalf of the Directors Guild of America regarding "Notice of Inquiry Regarding Orphan Works," the Writers Guild of America, west wants to express its full support for the analysis, conclusions and recommendations expressed in Mr. Roth's letter.

Founded in 1954, the Writers Guild of America, west (WGAw) is a labor organization that represents more than 8,500 professional authors of stories and screenplays for theatrical and television motion pictures, and interactive technologies. Among its many tasks, the WGAw negotiates collective bargaining agreements on behalf of its members, and enforces those agreements. As correctly stated in Mr. Roth's letter, these collective bargaining agreements as well as individual negotiations protect the economic and creative interests of motion pictures writers. These economic and creative interests continue long after a picture's initial release to the general public. We share the Directors Guild's concern that if so-called orphan works were generally made available to the public, the continuing contractual and moral rights of the film's authors, the directors and screenwriters, could well be undermined.

Therefore, if the Copyright Office believes a legislative, regulatory or other solution is required with respect to orphan works, then we agree with the Directors Guild that the film's authors, the directors and screenwriters, should be allowed to license the work in the absence of the copyright holder. We believe that the proposals in Mr. Roth's letter are sound and workable, and thus they have our full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John McLean".

Writers Guild of America, west, Inc.

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