Dear sirs/madams,

As an artist/illustrator/designer who has created art for a living for many years, I value the protection of the copyright laws as they were originally written, because they protect the small individual creator from those corporate entities who think that they are entitled to use the creations of an artist's hand and mind without compensation or acknowledgement. As one who was almost victimized by this kind of "theft, the law has deep meaning for me.

I had been contracted to create a design for a book cover by the Macmillan Company titled "Curso Basico De Espanol" for which I was paid. Some years later, however, I happened to be in a bookstore where I saw my exact design, in different colors, but used for another book titled "Curso Intermedio De Espanol". Since I had not been contacted regarding this re-use, nor paid the customary fee for re-use, I wrote to the company several times, billing them, only to have my requests ignored. I almost gave up, until another felicitous accident came my way. It was in the form of a notice I happened to see in my local newspaper. It came from a Bankruptcy Court in charge of a case regarding the Macmillan Company, which requested letters of explanation from any persons who had claims against that company; so I wrote to the court, and because of the copyright laws, and their protection, my plea was successful: the court made Macmillan pay me for the work that I had created. Without the law's protection, I would have been robbed of this just compensation for work that I, alone, had created with my own hands.

Jacqueline Kahane Freedman

Northern Ohio Illustrators Society