July 22, 2015
U.S. Copyright Office

To the Concerned:

As a professional illustrator/artist for over 20 years, I am deeply concerned about the Orphan Works Acts and The Next Great Copyright Act. I hold a BS degree, I guest lecture, my work has been published in numerous print and web publications and my work has garnered awards from The Society of Illustrators, Communication Arts, Print, and American Illustration.

Copyright law is not an abstract issue. It is the very foundation of my business. As a creator of artwork I hold copyright on those works. Copyrights are the products all artists license. When I create a work, that work is licensed to my clients under agreed upon terms, conditions and fees. They understand they do not own the work, they are paying to use it only as outlined. Since I own my work and hold the copyright to them I am able to control when and how they are used. Over many years, I have compiled a considerable catalog of works that are essentially my business inventory. I am able to re-license my works after original publication because they do not lose value once they are published. In fact the opposite is true.

The Next Great Copyright Act if passed would replace all existing copyright law. It would void the Constitutional right to control how our works are used, by whom and would be a tremendous loss of income for all artists.

When deliberating The Next Great Copyright Act, I urge you to consider and understand how important it is that artists have the exclusive control of our work now and forever.

Respectfully,

Ken Orvidas