



L & J Graphics
Leann E. Johnson
Minneapolis, MN

September 2, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20559-6000

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

Dear Ms. Pallante,

My name is Leann E. Johnson, and I've been a graphic artist and illustrator for over two decades. I'm responding to suggested changes to U.S. Copyright Law, and adding my voice to how these changes will negatively impact creatives.

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

Unfair competition and compensation. It's bad enough to have registries misleading artists into submitting their work for possible future licensing with minimal compensation. Add to that the impact of other individual and corporate entities willing to scan and/or download artists' images, moderately alter them and pass off the altered work(s) as their own without compensating the originating artist. The changes being proposed supports registries and corporations that can afford the lawyers to leverage their position. This does not support artists.

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

As an independent, self-employed artist, my time is better spent on creating new work or utilizing current work into ways of making a living. To spend hours (and money) to register my illustrations to prove the work is actually mine, then once I register paying for a contingency lawyer makes it cost prohibitive. Again, the burden is on the artist and not so much on the infringer.

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

As I said in response to #2, no working artist can afford the time and money to register and defend all their work against an entity with deep pockets and a bevy of lawyers.

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?

If I need to use a photograph or illustration, it's not that difficult to locate the source and use it professionally. Companies or entities who say otherwise are either mistaken or of questionable professionalism and ethics.



L & J Graphics
Leann E. Johnson
Minneapolis, MN

September 2, 2015
page 2

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

Artists need to feel that U.S. laws are there to protect them. Changing the laws to suit and support corporations and/or entities with the money and resources to coerce any situation to meet their agenda(s) should not be at artists' expense.

Thank you in advance for your time, help and consideration.

Sincerely,

Leann E. Johnson