US Copyright Office
Orphan Works

July 23, 2015

Dear US Copyright Office,

As a professional content creator, my living is affected by laws which limit my ability to leverage the ownership of my original work across multiple media. I am vehemently against "The Next Great Copyright Act" for the following reasons:

“The Next Great Copyright Act” would replace all existing copyright law.

1. It would void our Constitutional right to the exclusive control of our work.

2. It would “privilege” the public’s right to use our work.

3. It would “pressure” us to register our life’s work with commercial registries.

4. It would “orphan” unregistered work.

5. It would make orphaned work available for commercial infringement by “good faith” infringers.

6. It would allow others to alter our work and copyright those “derivative works” in their own names.

7. It would affect all visual art: drawings, paintings, sketches, photos, etc.; past, present and future; published and unpublished; domestic and foreign.

I hope you can see how potentially damaging such legislation would be, especially for small companies and individual creators who don't have the luxury of in-house legal departments and/or the ability to retroactively pay for registration of, in my case, over 20 years of original content.

In short, no one should have the right to use and/or monetize someone else's creative works unless specifically granted those rights by individual contract.

Sincerely,
Todd Downing
Despot Media
Port Orchard, WA