



## THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Copyright law serves a critical role in promoting and disseminating American works of authorship. Copyright protection helps to sustain large businesses, small companies, and individual creators in the creative industries, including those involving the arts, entertainment, technology, and information sectors. The Copyright Office serves the Nation by analyzing the copyright law from all perspectives, providing leadership and impartial expertise on questions of copyright law and policy, and developing policy initiatives to protect creative content effectively while being flexible enough to support uses of copyrighted works in new ways. The mission, goals, and impacts of the Copyright Office's work are described in [United States Copyright Office Strategic Plan: 2019–2023](#).

The Copyright Office has administered the Copyright Act, through registration and recordation practices, for almost 125 years. Copyright functions were centralized within the Library of Congress over 150 years ago in 1870, and the Copyright Office became a separate department of the Library of Congress in 1897. Congress has identified several critical law and policy functions of the Copyright Office, including:

- Advising Congress on domestic and international copyright issues;
- Providing assistance and information to other federal agencies (like the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the Department of Justice) and the courts;
- Participating on U.S. delegations in meetings with foreign governments and intergovernmental meetings (such as those at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)); and
- Conducting studies and programs regarding copyright, including educational programs conducted cooperatively with international intergovernmental organizations and foreign intellectual property offices.

See 17 U.S.C. § 701(b).

The Office of Policy and International Affairs (PIA) within the Copyright Office plays a significant role in executing these legislative mandates, and is the division responsible for domestic and international legal and policy issues. PIA is headed by Maria Strong, Associate Register of Copyrights and Director of Policy and International Affairs, and Kimberley Isbell, Deputy Director of Policy and International Affairs, and is staffed by lawyers who bring a variety of experiences from their prior copyright-related work before joining the Office, ranging from work at law firms, academic institutions, a medical society that published several international journals, non-profit organizations, and the Copyright Office's Office of General Counsel.

## DOMESTIC POLICY

PIA works closely with congressional offices on domestic copyright legislation and policy matters, including by providing detailed technical advice on legislative copyright proposals. PIA, along with the Office of the General Counsel, supports the Register of Copyrights' testimony before congressional committees on proposed or pending copyright legislation, as well as oversight and appropriations hearings. For example, between 2013 and 2015, the House Judiciary Committee held 20 hearings with 100 witnesses, and PIA participated actively in numerous aspects of that congressional review. PIA staff played a leading role in working with Congress and many stakeholders on the 2018 Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act.

PIA conducts comprehensive legal analyses and studies for the benefit of Congress and the public. Office reports and letters where PIA has had a leading role include: *Section 512 of Title 17* (2020); *Authors, Attribution, and Integrity: Examining Moral Rights in the United States* (2019); *Section 108 Discussion Document* (2017); congressional letter on a mass digitization pilot program (2017); *The Making Available Right in the United States* (2016); *Orphan Works and Mass Digitization* (2015); *Resale Royalties: An Updated Analysis* (2013); and *Legal Issues in Mass Digitization* (2011). PIA contributed to additional Office reports such as *Section 1201 Study* (2017), *Copyright Small Claims* (2013), and *Federal Copyright Protection for Pre-1972 Sound Recordings* (2011). Furthermore, PIA was part of the large review team resulting in the *Compendium of U.S. Copyright Office Practices, Third Edition* (2014), as well as its 2017 and 2021 updates. PIA attorneys also serve on and support the work of the Review Board on second appeals of refusals of copyright registration.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

PIA attorneys have substantial expertise in foreign copyright issues and international copyright treaty obligations. They engage in complex work on the copyright issues at WIPO and other multilateral fora (such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), OECD and G7/G20), and also serve on U.S. government delegations for bilateral and regional trade agreements between the United States and other countries (such as the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement (USMCA)). Working with interagency colleagues, PIA provides advice to foreign governments on technical analyses of their copyright laws and enforcement regimes.

PIA, along with its colleagues throughout the Copyright Office, promotes the development of balanced copyright systems, nationally and internationally. PIA provides and participates in technical assistance and capacity-building programs and conferences with foreign governments. PIA also co-produced with WIPO the "Copyright in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" event held in Washington, DC, in February 2020. PIA's signature biennial event with WIPO is the International Copyright Institute (ICI), which brings together U.S. copyright experts with senior leaders of foreign copyright offices from developing countries and countries in transition.