

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 4:34 PM
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Subject: Intellectual Property

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Ms. Espinel,

Thank you for requesting input from the public on this important topic. As a professional photographer, my entire livelihood is dependent upon the licensing of my intellectual property. I appreciate the strong copyright laws of the United States. There are a number of things that can be done to improve the situation in my opinion:

- Simplify the definitions under copyright law (for example the definition of "published" and "unpublished" works). Give lots of specific examples of what is and is not a violation of copyright law. There are lots of myths floating around.
- Undertake education. The topic of copyright is badly misunderstood. The topic needs to be covered in public schools since there is a wide perception among young people that anything they find online is free for them to use. Designers, photographers, artists, and other users and creators need to have the subject of copyright law included in their studies. A study of what is currently being taught and the development and distribution (online?) of a sample curriculum would be a good starting point. This would include all age groups up through college.
- A high profile enforcement action (using the FBI) against some of the most egregious offenders would help publicize and drive the point home.
- Gathering and publishing court cases of copyright violation and the results would help publicize the topic too.
- Include the topic of copyright and intellectual property law in the programs presented by the Small Business Administration and any other Federal Agency that provides business support and training.

Thank you,

John Blair

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(about an hour north of the Bay Area)
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