

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: my intellectual property infringement concerns
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The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

I am an Artist-Photographer. That is, I shoot subject matter that interests me, then make prints based on what I have shot and offer the prints for sale. I include Copyright notice with each print, but, of course, have no knowledge what may become of that print after it leaves my hands.

I have not, as yet, set up a website to market my prints because I have seen how easy it is to copy images off such sites and my impression is that too many people trolling the internet don't believe in Copyright protections. I wish someone would develop a means of protecting images on websites, or at least greatly raising the bar of difficulty to the point of stifling copying.

I am greatly in fear of the effects the proposed "Orphan Works" bills in Congress may have on protecting intellectual property because they all seem to be aimed at tearing down protections and making the registration process more cumbersome. If I were drafting such a law, I would require that each published (however that term is defined) image (or other work) would HAVE to have a statement of Copyright attached and the publisher would have to be able to show proof of permission to publish issued by the owner or the owner's agent. I believe that music performance licensing follows this model. If the publisher could not ascertain the work's Copyright owner, he would have to substitute a statement as to where he obtained the image and register his use with a copyright clearing house as escrow for the owner being found. Whoever broke the traceability chain, i.e., published a work without a statement, would be subject to stiff fines. If the owner were subsequently located, the owner would be entitled to a fair share of any fines collected and could use the clearing house records to negotiate with the subsequent good-faith users.

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Photographer