

To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: Why Intellectual Property rights are important to me
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ASMP and the Copyright Alliance have informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

I'm a photographer, and a couple years ago, a friend said she saw one of my photographs on the cover of a national newspaper. She handed me a copy, and indeed, there it was, one of my favorite images. More of my images were used inside, too. The paper had not asked my permission to use my images for this cover story; the staff simply did so, and without compensating me. The image had a photo credit, and they misspelled my name. Of course, the editors at this newspaper knew better. But they did not bother to educate their staff and their interns on the law. Even our national newspapers do not practice basic IP rights at times. I sent the newspaper a bill for using my images, but have not received payment. Now I must submit them to collections. Shame on them for growing their business on my unpaid shoulders.

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Genevieve Shiffrar, Photographer
San Francisco CA