

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: Intellectual Property Feedback
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2010 2:22:22 PM

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.

As a creator of intellectual property, I have seen a dramatic shift in America's attitude toward ownership and payment for intellectual property, and generally, I believe it NOT to be a healthy one. The attitude of "if I can find it and copy it, it's mine for free" has cost millions, perhaps billions of dollars in losses to American creators.

While I am a photographer, I have also filed for a patent -- very related to intellectual property. The short of it is this: with both mechanical invention and photographs there is very little incentive to me to create any groundbreaking products or images when the pervasive attitude of both individuals and big industry is "if I can take it; I will." Frankly, why create? Why innovate? If I cannot benefit financially from what I create, there is very little incentive to do it.

If we took the model of "if I can take it; it's mine" without fear of prosecution and we projected that onto automobiles -- chaos would reign. There would be little incentive to buy a decent car. Why buy quality if it will be taken away? From there, there would be little incentive to produce good cars. The economic and practical implications are simple to see. The allegory is not far distant when related to intellectual property.

When there is little to no incentive to create work that will last beyond it's immediate "fee for service" use, then the overall color of what America produces will inevitably fall. Simply producing what others have invented/created is the low end of the economic spectrum (and China is already efficient there).

I urge you to honor and strengthen the long-standing American tradition and laws of protecting intellectual property, from music and photography to words and machinery.

Thank you. I am most fortunate indeed to live in a country where we value and encourage fair business.

Sincerely,

Erik

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