

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: "The Copyright Alliance has informed me..."
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 5:26:57 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel and the Obama Administration,

"The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator." My living centers around creating and managing photographic content as well as running a 18+ year old photographic nonprofit called the Living American Master Photographers Project [LAMPP]. The Project is an oral & visual history 501(C)3 Organization that not only explores the intimate life of our living masters, but the impact of the ambient weight of the image on our evolving national perspective. So as a creator and a photographic community witness, I have a unique vision on the direction of how our country progresses.

Big business takes advantage of the tremendous demand for content and the government does little to protect the witnesses who become and are existing organic national treasures. It's time we recognize their contribution with tangible support. It's hard enough creating images, but managing the theft of this content, big businesses structure that enables them to pressure these providers, myself included, to sell their images as "stock". The creator of the image should be its owner. Please support this concept, honor the great freedom of visual content creation by recognizing the diverse, dynamic, cross gender, cultural, religious, ethnic boundaries. The better we "see" the more confident we can move forward. This begins with legislation that protects these individuals.

Now more than ever photojournalists, even street photographers are "targets". This is part of the evolution of photography. The days of a photographer being the "fly on the wall" are over. Now these men and women are targets for assassination! They are lobbied to report on injustices around the world. Many set up nonprofits to benefit the communities they were originally sent to document. Without strong legislation, these voices are at risk. They represent on the ground barometers of political, economic, and social trends just to name a few. We must support them, value them for the human intelligence, the TRUE heart and mind perspective we try with greater futility to address. If our nation sets up guidelines to protect their rights, they can better support themselves, stabilize areas without having to intervene via other avenues.

Let's assess our assets more wisely, consider out of the box thinking, that moves with our progression. There's a Chinese proverb that says "Learning is like rowing upstream: not to advance is to drop back." Let's not swallow bitter pill after bitter pill! What we can learn from a single one can get us further than we imagined.

Thank you for your time and kind consideration.

Respectfully,

Paul Waldman

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"The only real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes." -Marcel Proust.

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