

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: comments on copyright law
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 5:23:54 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel:

Here's the deal. I'm a writer. So I care about copyright.

But I also care about due process. If a person violates another law, there is a trial, and then if he is guilty, he gets a punishment. The same should be true in copyright law. But it seems there are people who want to do things like take away someone's internet access just because someone accuses them of violating copyright.

Here are some points I think you need to really make sure are part of any law:

- Any punishment should only be meted out when a person has been given a fair trial.
- The punishment should fit the crime. Downloading one illegal song is like shoplifting a pack of gum. Is the punishment similar?
- Go after the actual pirates, people who produce and sell mass quantities of copyrighted material illegally. Don't spend lots of government money going after people who download one or two illegal songs.
- Electronic media make it very easy to use digital files, such as music and ebooks and such things. Don't screw it up by making the laws so restrictive that no one can take advantage of this great technology.
- The US shouldn't sign any treaties with other countries that have the effect of law without the normal process of enacting a law (which is when congress passes a bill and the President signs it, like we learned in school). This ACTA treaty is wrong, because it's secret. There must be something bad about it if they can't come out and talk about it in public.

Thanks for reading my comments.

Melissa Worcester
Galway, NY