

From:

Subject:

Date:

Intellectual property rights

Saturday, March 20, 2010 8:21:52 PM

Dear Sir/Madam:

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 a glass artist. My specialties are stained glass, fused glass and accessories/findings for jewelry, and other glass related areas.

As an artist, I have been fortunate to have been able to make a good living with my intellectual creations, however, with the current status and burden of proof required to defend myself when my products, copyrights, trademarks and patents are infringed on, unless you are a wealthy individual or a large corporation, defending your GOVERNMENTALLY COPYRIGHTED, TRADEMARKED OR PATENTED intellectual creations is either nearly impossible, or financially destructive for your company. If one does prevail in the courts the penalties for the offenders, more often than not, do not even come close to the costs of defending one's own legal rights supposedly guaranteed by the government. Not all companies in this country do billions of dollars in business.

The procedures for owners of intellectual property rights to defend themselves in the courts must be made less financially burdensome on them, and the penalties for those who lie, steal, cheat and infringe on those intellectual property rights must be made severe enough to make a would be infringer pause before even considering actions against legal rights holders.

I am currently the plaintiff in a federally registered trademark infringement case. I will prevail because not to fight to the end would seriously injure my business, however, the return on fighting this battle will probable not even cover 1/10th of the overall expense of several hundred thousand dollars. Protections for all intellectual property right owners must be made stronger and easier for the owners to protect.

Sincerely

Jeffrey Castaline
Glass Artist
San Mateo, California