

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: intellectual property protection for creators
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 6:27:39 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel:

I am a professional photographer in Indianapolis, Indiana, and I was informed by the American Society of Media Photographers and The Copyright Alliance, that you and the Obama Administration are seeking input from creative professionals about the problem of copyright infringement and how it hurts our business. Unauthorized use of my copyrighted images has the immediate effect of depriving me of income, but it also can cause problems in other ways. By being duplicated or reproduced illegally, an image most always loses value because it's lost its exclusivity for an honest buyer who wishes to lease the reproduction rights legally. Also, if I have granted specific rights for a client to use one of my images, an unauthorized usage by an infringer will probably violate the agreement that I have made with my honest client, thus putting me in a bad light with that client and any others to whom he relates the story. A good portion of my income is made by licensing reproduction rights to images that I have created myself, out of my own pocket. Copyright infringement makes a challenging way to earn a living an impossible way to make a living. We need strong statutes that protect the rights of creative professionals. Creators must have protection for their intellectual property in order to not only survive, but to keep the passion burning for their particular art. For it is the passion that drives the creation of the memorable images, music, verse, and other art that America in turn, needs to inspire her to lead the world. Thank you for reviewing my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Richard Clark