

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: from Yvonne Harris Burnley, Esq.
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 3:44:06 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."

I am the daughter of a great jazz musician and a songwriter who has spent the last 20 years managing the Estate affairs of a jazz legend which include: the management of his copyrights, trademark and patent law matters as well as his royalty and licensing issues.

In short, I am terribly disappointed in the arbitrary handling of affairs concerning how royalties are distributed to the creators of musical and literary works coupled with the hidden agendas of the recording company executives. For example, the terms *payola* and *black box* immediately come to mind.

Intellectual Property rights are important because these laws work to protect the artist's musical or literary work from being wrongfully used or credited by the non-originator of the work. Unfortunately, with advanced technology specifically the use of the internet, individuals have found ways to download music, literary texts, sell copyrighted works and plagiarize works unlawfully.

Our estate has been involved in infringement matters and I am familiar with associates being affected by the piracy laws, and such legal actions have affected my artists rights adversely.

Simply put, if I create a slogan, write a book, create music to a song or invent a product, I should be able to protect my work by law. And, if individuals want to purchase my product or sell it to someone else, it is only fair that they primarily get permission and pay me for the use of my idea. Finally, the artist should be compensated for the work that he does.

The U.S. government needs to put tighter restrictions on who can download music off the internet, download a literary work, sell anyone's work without permission and the U.S. government needs to impose stricter penalties on those individuals that do not want to follow the imposed laws of intellectual property.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Harris
Upper Marlboro, MD.

