

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010 4:38 PM  
**To:** FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty  
**Subject:** IPEC - Public Comments Regarding the Joint Strategic Plan  
**Attachments:** Pro-Imaging IPEC.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Ms. Espinel,

Pro Imaging is an international support group of full time professional photographers with representatives in over 30 countries, from China to the EU to South Africa.

<http://pro-imaging.org>

Pro Imaging is active in informing and protecting the rights of artists and imaging creators and runs high profile campaigns in support of all artists. We developed the “Bill of Rights” for fair photo competitions in an effort to reform gross rights-grabbing expropriation of creatives’ work. Pro-Imaging actively assisted in educating the public and Congress to the dangers of the flawed Orphan Works 2008 Bill.

<http://www.pro-imaging.org/content/view/177/156/>

In Boston, Massachusetts, where I am based, Pro-imaging joined the Massachusetts Artists Leaders Coalition and Artists Under the Dome for the benefit of Massachusetts creative businesses, and to assist in working towards our shared goals seeking fair representation for artists in the legislative process.

<http://artistsunderthedome.org>

<http://artistsunderthedome.org/malc>

All our members are small business owners and artists who rely completely on licensing and copyright protection for the support of our families and homes. Increasingly, there are, and have been, many attempts to weaken these protections and make the process of copyright enforcement expensive, complex, and onerous. Such legislative attempts, e.g., orphan works legislation, would have effectively stripped small business owners and ordinary citizens of any meaningful right to their creative property and transferred that to any number of commercial, corporate entities.

The biggest threat to our livelihoods, and to the privacy of ordinary citizens, is this potential for commercial exploitation of not only our private, creative property but our national heritage artifacts for special-interest profit. We welcome and support IPEC's efforts to bring all voices to the table to craft fair and meaningful protections for all citizens in an open and transparent manner, and one that respects the rights of citizens in other countries by honoring the letter and spirit of the Berne Convention and TRIPS agreements.

Sincerely,

Don Schaefer  
co-admin Pro-Imaging  
MALC steering committee

(PDF of the above statement is attached.)

## international support for professional image creators

March 24, 2010

Public Comments Regarding the Joint Strategic Plan  
Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator

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Don Schaefer  
co-admin Pro-Imaging  
MALC steering committee

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