From:
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty; info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: on the right to be paid for work as a photographer and a writer
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 8:01:32 AM

To Ms. Espinel and President Obama:

ASMP and the Copyright Alliance have informed of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

I cannot use my creative efforts to forge a career because it is never a certainty that my product will be used only after it has been paid for. The fact that I must rely on the old honor system and another's good will without legal backup makes creative endeavor a precarious career choice.

I have been writing articles and taking photographs as a freelance for many years. The income to be derived has declined precipitously. The respect my profession holds in the eyes of the world has diminished partly because they can get it for nothing from hopeful creators who look for a contract in the future or a second assignment and because of new technology that makes it easy to "borrow" a nice photo from a site.

It has become commonplace for me to look very, very closely at any friendly correspondence or invitation to write an article or take on a photo assignment because it is as likely to be an effort to get the work for almost nothing as it is an offer of an agreement or contract. This is the case no matter how reputable the client appears.

I know it's difficult to get paid by anybody these days no matter your profession because of the economy. I know because I also do work with other skill sets. But it is easier to get paid for product in these other areas of my work world because I have more control over that product.

Further, it is impossible to be a creative in this country without also having another income.

Please protect us with a legal umbrella. Please make it possible to seek and receive an appropriate monetary return for creative product by giving us control over that product.

Tania Evans

Tania Evans Media

Ann Arbor, Michigan