



ANNOUNCEMENT

from the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20559

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN PROCEDURES REGARDING 17 U.S.C. 508 FILINGS

The following excerpt is taken from Volume 45, Number 120 of the Federal Register for Thursday, June 19, 1980 (pp. 41548-41549).

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Copyright Office

Notice of Change in Procedures Regarding 17 U.S.C. 508 Filings

AGENCY: Library of Congress, Copyright Office.

ACTION: Notice of change in procedures.

Notification of Filing and Determination of Actions Under 17 U.S.C. 508

Notice is hereby given that the Copyright Office is revising its procedures concerning the handling of notifications of filing and determinations of actions under section 508 of the Copyright Act, title 17 of the United States Code. This section of the Act reads as follows:

§ 508. Notification of filing and determination of actions.

(a) Within one month after the filing of any action under this title, the clerks of the courts of the United States shall send written notification to the Register of Copyrights setting forth, as far as is shown by the papers filed in the court, the names and addresses of the parties and the title, author, and registration number of each work involved in the action. If any other copyrighted work is later included in the action by amendment, answer, or other pleading, the clerk shall also send a notification concerning it to the

Register within one month after the pleading is filed.

(b) Within one month after any final order or judgment is issued in the case, the clerk of the court shall notify the Register of it, sending with the notification a copy of the order or judgment together with the written opinion, if any, of the court.

(c) Upon receiving the notifications specified in this section, the Register shall make them a part of the public records of the Copyright Office.

On June 2, 1978 the Copyright Office published in the Federal Register (43 FR 24151) a rather elaborate procedure for making the notifications filed under section 508 of the Copyright Act not only a part of the public records but also a part of the Catalog of Copyright Entries and the Copyright Card Catalog. Our procedure included examining the notifications, microfilming and completely cataloging them. Thus, catalog cards were produced for every plaintiff, defendant and title. These cards were interfiled with registrations and other documents, which considerably expanded our card file and our card catalogs. This has caused considerable difficulty to Copyright Office bibliographers and searchers and members of the public who use our files and catalogs. Also, our experience with section 508 filings indicates that the

users of these notifications want to look at the actual documents filed in chronological order, rather than use the microfilm record.

Therefore, we have revised our practices and procedures regarding section 508 filings. Beginning immediately we will file these notifications only by a serial control number. They will be located in the Certifications and Documents Section of the Information and Reference Division. To provide access to these notifications, the documents will be indexed under the name of the plaintiff. This index will be maintained by the Certifications and Documents Section, which is currently located in Crystal Square, Building 4, 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia. Our current hours of public access are from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays (except legal holidays). The Copyright Office will relocate on Capitol Hill in July/August 1980, and at that time our hours of public service will be adjusted.

Dated: June 18, 1980.

David L. Ladd,
Register of Copyrights.

Approved:
Daniel J. Boorstin,
The Librarian of Congress.

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