

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Sharing my thoughts on my rights as a creator...
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 2:49:48 AM

Ms. Espinel,

The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator. As a graphic and web designer, a writer, and a musician, intellectual property infringement affects my livelihood on many levels.

As an example, I am currently party to a class-action lawsuit against a huge corporation. They took a published poetry anthology in which a piece of my writing appears, scanned it, and made my piece available across the Internet without first getting my permission to do so. While this may give me exposure as a poet, I did not ask them to do this, nor did they ask my permission to do so. The bottom line is that the piece they made available is registered by me with the U.S. Copyright Office, and they did not get my permission to make it available.

I am not quite sure what the outcome of the class-action suit will be, but I have the strong feeling that it will be nothing more than a slap on the wrist for an all-consuming corporate behemoth. I try not to be bitter. However, when my income is derived from what I create, whether it be a piece of art, writing or music, I feel I have the right to fight for what is rightfully mine.

I would also like to note that I am adamantly against Orphan Works. It is already difficult enough to protect our rights in our work. I feel this legislation would only give way to a group of greedy, unscrupulous people who feel entitled to using anything they find, without making an effort to find the person who created it and without compensating them fairly. Obviously, there are people who already do this, but I feel Orphan Works would open the floodgates to this type of behavior, and would seriously mute our desire to create anything for fear of it being stolen. That would be an awful scenario.

I am very thankful that a position within the Obama Administration has been created for the purpose of fighting infringement and protecting the rights of creatives. I wish you all the best in your efforts, and I thank you in advance for giving voice to the creative community as a whole.

Bill Cwiekalo
Bronx, NY
Graphic/Web Designer, Writer, Musician