

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Intellectual Property Rights
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 4:19:29 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel,

ASMP and the Copyright Alliance have informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator. I appreciate this opportunity to express to you and the administration how intellectual property rights are vital to my industry and my survival as professional photographer and artist.

Quality photography is an art form, the same as a painting or a sculpture, it is not a commodity. In this day and age, the copying of images from the internet is being viewed more and more as a "right" rather than the serious crime it is. To remove even the most minor deterrents and punishments for infringers would only increase the proliferation of theft of images.

As an architectural photographer I photograph all kinds of structures. If my client is the architect, that architect bears the financial burden for creation of the images. For the general contractor, building owner, material supply vendor, etc. to then go to the architect's site and copy and past the images the architect paid so much money for, and place those images on their own web site for advertising/marketing purposes to land new business is unacceptable. Not only for the architect that paid so much money for the images, but also to myself, who owns the images and should be compensated for any use by a company to earn a profit. I am not in business to work for free to help other people earn money using my images. Considering each image is easily valued at over \$500-\$1000 to the original commissioning entity, that theft is easily valued into the range of grand theft in some states/jurisdictions - and that is only for one image. Steal a complete study of a facility, which can be half a dozen or more images, the amount of the theft quickly grows into the thousands.

If we don't create serious ramifications for infringers, there isn't going to be any deterrent for them not to commit the crime. The sooner, and the steeper the consequences for the infringers are put in place, the less chance there is that stealing images from the web and other sources will become ingrained into our society as acceptable or even a "right". The longer we wait, the more of a habit people will make this and the harder it will be to reverse.

My information:,
Kimberly Blom-Roemer
Gower, MO
Architectural, Commercial, and Fine Art Photographer

Respectfully,
--Kimberly

KIMBERLY BLOM-ROEMER, Photographer

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