

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](mailto:FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty)  
**Subject:** Victoria Espinel Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2010 4:45:24 PM

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March 23, 2010

Ms Victoria Espinel  
U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator  
[intellectualproperty@omb.eop.gov](mailto:intellectualproperty@omb.eop.gov)

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 am a photographer living and working in New York for 30 years. I also teach at several local colleges. My concern for intellectual property rights is both moral and economic.

The economic side is easy to understand. A publisher publishes a book and adds an intellectual property notice. If someone steals or uses that book, then the publisher potentially loses a sale. Most large corporations have the resources and infrastructure to monitor such abuse. The individual artist like my students and myself should be afforded the same protection under the law as any business. I clearly understand the goal of companies like google.com, among others, who would prefer there be no intellectual property right laws for them to circumvent.

This brings us to the moral side of the issue. Is it acceptable to steal from those who cannot mount a defense? Is it acceptable to allow the dilution of the protection of creative thought for a profit?

This process has been changing for a long time. The rights of creators have continued to be stripped away at the behest of corporate interests. A example is the recent debate on Orphan Rights.

President Obama, I believe is a man who sees both of these perspectives, as do I. I believe in business but I also believe there is a right thing to do. The right thing in this instance is to not only support intellectual property rights but to bolster them for everyone. In the long run it will result in benefits to both the creator and the user. I believe in this because I care about my student's futures. Is their creativity worth any less than those who have come before them?

To clarify, think of a pharmaceutical company. They spend millions on R&D and bring out a new drug. This is covered by a patent, another form of creative protection. If we made the patent laws equally vague and unbalanced as the intellectual property right laws there would be a great number of very unhappy companies seeing their new products being copied and used by anyone at will.

Thanks for this opportunity to begin a dialog,

Sincerely,

Paul D'Innocenzo

New York, NY

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