

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: intellectual property concern
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 11:23:34 AM

Dear Ms. Espinel and the Obama administration,

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.

My name is Andre Hermann. I am a documentary photographer located in Oakland, California. A recent graduate from the Academy of Art University's masters program for photography, you can be sure that copyright infringement and protecting my images is at the top of my list. Photography is my life, my bread and butter. I do not have a second job to fall back on. I rely heavily on the sales of my images to keep my business running, and roof over my family's head.

Piracy and copyright infringement is a reality that we as creatives must face. Though I don't have any ideas of how to solve this problem at the moment, I can suggest that you PLEASE make the process of registering my images at the online US copyright office easier. Right now the system, even though fairly new is extremely confusing and antiquated. This is one of the defenses we as creatives have to protecting our work, yet it is so difficult to navigate and understand that it seriously keeps me away from registering my work. It really makes me ask why I am spending a \$35 registration fee. I am not the only one who feels this way. I have heard from many of my peers—students and professionals alike—how difficult, and frustrating this site, and process is.

The good thing is that updating and streamlining the copyright web site and registration process doesn't need to an act of congress, bring in photographers and other creatives to help redesign the process. By doing this you will taking one easy step to helping the creatives of this country protect their work.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Andre J. Hermann
Documentary photographer
Oakland, Ca.