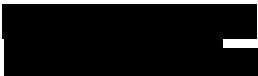


**From:**



**Cc:**

[info@copyrightalliance.org](mailto:info@copyrightalliance.org)

**Subject:**

Intellectual Property is Important for Artists

**Date:**

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 12:29:04 AM

---

The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

IP rights are important to me because it is my creative occupation, something I've worked hard at doing in one of the hardest and most stressful jobs there is. The work I create is something special, unique, nobody else captured that exact moment - similar possibly, not exact. If our rights are not protected the work I do will become worthless, anybody would be able to steal it - something unique to a creative field. If a contractor builds a deck for someone nobody is allowed to come and steal it, if you buy a car I'm not allowed to take it for a spin any time I want. Our rights need to be protected as well. I've had several images stolen and been ignored by the thieves when bills or warnings are sent. It's costing me money for these people to do this and taking food off the table so to speak. Many photographers are unable to go after those stealing our work because of fees for lawyers, and many wish there was an easier way. What the solution is I don't know, a watchdog agency possibly, but something needs to be done to protect our rights so those that work so hard to make it in very tough fields, especially in today's economy, of creative work can continue to do their job and grow as a business and enrich the community.

Mike Janes  
Attica, NY  
Photographer