

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
**Cc:** [info@copyrightalliance.org](mailto:info@copyrightalliance.org)  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2010 8:56:48 PM

---

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. Every job that I have had involved my creative talents. In years past, I was required to surrender my creative rights since my design was created while/because I was their employee. A self-employed photographer must maintain control over their own copyrights or they won't be a self-employed photographer. Anyone can push the button of the digital cameras made today. That does not make them a professional photographer. I create the composition, choose the lens, chose the lighting, select the location, determine the color balance, complete the post-production. It is my vision and my copyrights for these photographs that I want to protect. The signed contract between the client and photographer should determine the use of the image. Even if there is no contract; it is still my creative vision and therefore my property. Unfortunately, technology is moving faster than the rights to protect artists. How can an independent photographer earn a living if their work can be stolen? Taking without permission is stealing; whether it is a tangible object or not.

Shelley Miller  
Photographer  
Maryland