

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: Protection of Intellectual Property
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 5:17:03 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel and the Obama Administration

A few days ago I received an email from ASMP & the © Alliance informing me of the White House open invitation to share my thoughts on my rights as the creator of my art work. It is great to see the Obama Administration having an open dialogue with creative folks across the nation.

When I first arrived to this great country from Latin America I never planned on becoming a professional photographer. I always thought I'd be a doctor, but during my senior year in college I began to have doubts about a career in medicine. It was around that time that I bought a Canon camera. And, while browsing in a bookstore, I found a magazine titled Darkroom, with Ansel Adams profiled on the cover. A few glances at Adams' powerful black-and-white landscapes left me hypnotized; at that moment, I had a feeling that the camera I had just purchased was a connection to my future. I went home with Darkroom inside a plastic bag and within days, I was dialing information for Carmel by the Sea, California, asking for Mr. Adams' phone number.

That first conversation with Ansel Adams led to many more, until we established a warm mentoring relationship that guided me through some of my darkest moments of insecurity. Ironically this is the man who also wrote to President Theodore Roosevelt expressing, through his powerful black and white landscapes, his most ardent passion for the protection and conservation of our wilderness lands. Today thanks to him we know Yosemite National park.

My break into professional photography began when I was hired as a staff photographer for The Chattanooga Times. While that photojournalism experience was invaluable, I soon left for the Washington, DC area, where I began a freelance photography career that continues today (although I am now based in LA). My work has graced the pages of many well-known magazines including Time, People, Forbes, Newsweek, ESPN, Life, and Sports Illustrated. I have photographed celebrities, business icons, and top sports figures (a portfolio of my work can be viewed at www.ManuelloPaganelliphotography.com).

Today I asked you for your support in putting more metal walls on the protecting of our photo works. As artist the © of our work is the core of who we are and the legacy that we may leave behind to our children's children and the influence in the USA economic. During the lean years of any artist, specially now when the economy has taken a toll on small business owners and artists, the ownership of our photography/art is what helps us pay for our mortgage, family, health insurance and keep us afloat and in a positive mood as we look toward the horizon.

Right at this moment many large corporations and publishing power houses are eroding and abusing our rights by asking us for more usage of our photography and paying us less. Also with the birth of the Internet our work has been stolen and published without our consents or any monetary payments offered to us. It is very frustrating to and difficult to fight each person that takes the liberty of abusing our images. By enacting powerful laws this can have an impact on how photo buyers or organizations view, understand and respect the importance and value of our Intellectual Property.

I strongly believe that the Obama Administration can be a light house making it clearly to all organisation, corporation or individuals that © is an artist rights which can't be taken,

stolen, exchanged or bought under pressure or any circumstances. IN the event that a © is sold or transferred it should be done in a way that is substantially beneficial to the creator.

Sincerely,

Manuello Paganelli

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