

  


**Subject:**

PROTECT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

**Date:**

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 2:50:16 PM

---

TO: Hon. Victoria Espinel and the Obama Administration:

The American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP) and the Copyright Alliance have informed me of this welcome invitation of the Obama Administration to share some thoughts on the rights of all who are artistic creators.

I am a professional and fine arts photographer for over forty years and I know intimately the cares and concerns of working professionals who strive to protect the integrity and value of their work product. In addition to being a working professional, I am also an attorney, admitted to practice in various courts including, proudly, the United States Supreme Court. This legal background and my great interest in intellectual property suited me well in my role as an educator. I was, for over fifteen years, until my retirement in 2006, a tenured Associate Professor in both the Photography and Marketing Departments at the Fashion Institute of Technology, a State University (FIT) located in New York City.

So you can see that the world of artist's rights has been foremost in my thinking and my endeavors. Photographers and other creative artists have to deal with an ever increasing number of hostile, greedy and unlawful entrepreneurs who try to wrench from the hands of earnest creators the fruits of their labor. The massive strides in digital technology that occur daily give, in the hands of the unscrupulous, the tools to rob the artist of their creative work. They need additional legislative protection that is fair, even handed and just.

A review of the techniques presently in place in the field of commerce which destroys the efficacy of current copyright protection should be immediately undertaken. Even as we consider these problems, ostensibly protected work is literally being stolen, around the globe. I implore the far-sighted Obama administration to seriously take up this cause and call upon those with expertise, knowledge and insight to assist them.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my thoughts to you, even if they are in a truncated form.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard (Len) Speier  
190 Riverside Drive  
New York, NY 10024  
e-mail [lenspeier@gmail.com](mailto:lenspeier@gmail.com)