

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: :: copyright and my livelihood ::
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 12:55:58 PM

dear Ms. Espinel,

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

i'm 59 years old, a father and very involved citizen in our community and greater society. i opened my doors for business in november of 1978 and have pursued a career as a professional photographer and fine artist ever since.

this is my only source of income ... i have no other job ... this is what i've done to support myself and my family since '78.

i worked long and hard to get to the point of being able to offer a unique, creative service to my clients. i have an extensive education which meant years and years of sacrifice, student loans (paid off long ago), internships, university degrees, advanced study at various universities ... all work for the long haul so i would have something unique to offer and sell.

>>> what i sell and what has supported my family for these 30+++ years is intellectual property rights to my creative vision. i do not sell photographs. i sell rights to use my images ... that's all.

>>> i have never granted all rights including ownership of my copyright ever ... not once ... in my entire career. i sell certain rights to certain images to be used as negotiated with my clients. i depend on a strong copyright law. i delineate rights sold on each and every invoice. each invoice includes the phrase "don fogg retains copyright".

i have even gone so far as to "hide" the image content on my own, business website because i saw many, many illegal downloads of my work by large companies ... i do not allow use of any of my images without my permission and just compensation and without a strong copyright law in place i cannot afford to stand up for my rights against huge business entities. now my clients must contact me directly and i post work for them to view in private directories not open to the public.

this issue is critical for the survival of our society. citizens like me create something from nothing ... we add value ... we are the roots, the backbone of our culture. we do not re-sell, re-package, mark up and pass through something that already exists thus adding cost to a consumer ... we create something from scratch that adds to the society. we invent ...

without strong protection for our rights to own our work we will not be able to continue offering our services and our businesses will fail. it's very simple and it's also very easy to understand on a moral level as well. it's only just and right.

thanks for taking the time to read this ... please feel free to contact me if you need any more information,

don

artist / photographer

alameda, california USA

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"every child is an artist. the problem is how to remain an artist once they grow up" ... Pablo Picasso