

Objection To Proposed Fee Increase

April 26, 2012

U.S. Copyright Office

To Whom It May Concern,

As a professional photographer I want to add my comments concerning the proposed increases in copyright fees. The volume of images that we (photographers) need to copyright is overwhelming. It is a tedious task that, unfortunately, most photographers avoid because of the time needed to locate, gather, resize and organize before the copyright form itself is even begun. Due to the sheer volume of work that needs copyrighting, any additional increases in cost would only serve to further discourage photographers from diving into this very time consuming but vital process.

There has been a tremendous amount of discussion within the photography community in the U.S. and the general consensus is, it must be affordable and needs to be made simpler. A great many of us have the same aversion to copyrighting our work as we feel towards doing our taxes. There must be a way to make it all more user friendly. For example: it's well known that most photographers use Apple computers and our default browsers are "Safari", yet your online filing process doesn't support Safari.

Furthermore, it's also well known that the government has a way of making things much more complicated than private business. Perhaps you could invite proposals/solutions from the public and private sector on how to simplify this process.

In the end, the purpose of copyrighting is, "To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries" (U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8).

So please make this whole process easier and not more daunting than it already is.

Very sincerely,
Clay Ellis

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