

To whom it may concern,

I represent Latin Focus photo agency and have read what you are seeking to do with "copyright orphans" and change the law. Let me assure you that there is no such thing as "copyright orphans". The laws clearly states that the ownership of copyrights belong to "the creator of the works" or the transferred right of ownership. As a member of ASPP, I can not support what you are doing because you are basically taking the feet off the Copyright Law in which it stands. The rights being sought by photo researchers represent current or living artist or photographers who made the images and licensed the images to the publications or medium but are no longer found. Well, with today's economy, companies are on the move, photographers move, businesses change from that of street location to that of internet addresses as well as their names change. Some even move to another country seeking more affordable housing. What ever the reason, if a photo researcher is given immunity to freely use the images without any infringement risk, aren't you opening up a whole new set of problems? Are you not saying that this exemption to the law is free of risks? Does this not say that each researcher will have to make a decision as to whether or not they truly "looked" for the owner of the copyright or how much research is enough? Just because some researchers don't want to do research, don't have the time, can't afford the time or simply do not want to do a lot of research, to find the right owners of certain images, does this allow us to cut off the only law that protects the copyright holder from such unauthorized uses???? You are peeling off the coat of protection to the copyright law, don't you see that?

Are we beginning to poke holes into a law that truly protects the creators of such art in order to make this business of research more simpler and laid back? Please get everyone's view before you continue to change a law that goes beyond ASPP. The world of art, photography and intellectual property is much greater and larger than a few researchers who don't have time to research the rightful owners.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Dorantes  
Director  
Latin Focus