

Wood Ronsaville Harlin, Inc.

September 28, 2015

US Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Comments regarding:
[Docket No. 2015-01]
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since 1978, my business partner, Rob Wood, and I have owned and operated Wood Ronsaville Harlin, Inc. as an illustration and graphic design studio. Over the years we have nurtured artists and created a work atmosphere conducive to creating outstanding illustrations for a wide range of national clients. Starting out we have signed “work for hire” agreements because the client would say...”either sign this or we’ll find someone else who will.” In the beginning, both Rob and I were the sole support of our families and we needed every dollar we could earn. So, we signed. We have also found illegitimate uses of our work (not “work for hire”) by clients who certainly knew better. Their answer was: “Oops you found us, now we’ll pay.”

Over the years, we have not been able to financially register every piece of art from our studio. We felt that we were somewhat protected under the 1976 law. However, the proposed changes would incur cost and time, which would exceed any profit we would make from the original piece. Frankly, “Orphaned Work” just means that the “looker” wasn’t willing to look very far to determine the actual author of the image. Many times we can blame our clients who remove our name from the piece or simply say, “the credit line was accidentally left off.”

I have read over the many letters written by artists, etc., to your office voicing their feelings about the proposed changes to the Copyright Law. Every one of the letters all said basically the same thing. I cannot write any better than the letters you have received. They are thoughtfully written and express the same views that I have.

I urge you to read each and every letter from the established artist to the beginner. The notion that “starving artists” work to fulfill some inner desire sounds indeed romantic; but the reality is that we work to earn a living and support a family. Don’t make it any harder than it already is.

Sincerely,



Pamela Ronsaville, *President*