



## American Intellectual Property Law Association

June 29, 2026

The Honorable Shira Perlmutter  
Register of Copyrights and Director  
U.S. Copyright Office  
101 Independence Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20559-6000

**Re: AIPLA Comments on Group Registration of Updates to a News Website, U.S. Copyright Office, Docket No. 2026-5**

Dear Register Perlmutter,

The American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) is pleased to offer comments in response to the above-referenced U.S. Copyright Office Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“2026 NPRM”) related to group registration of updates to a news website. We commend the Office for exploring opportunities to expand access to group registration options, and we support the overarching goals and purposes set forth in the Notice.

Founded in 1897, AIPLA is a national bar association of approximately 6,500 members who are engaged in private or corporate practice, in government service, and in the academic community. AIPLA members represent a wide and diverse spectrum of individuals, companies, and institutions involved directly or indirectly in the practice of patent (utility and design), trademark, copyright, trade secret, and unfair competition law, as well as other fields of law affecting intellectual property. Our members represent both owners and users of intellectual property. Our mission includes helping to establish and maintain fair and effective laws and policies that stimulate and reward invention while also balancing the public’s interest in healthy competition, reasonable costs, and basic fairness.

We support the Office’s proposal to expand eligibility for the “news website” group registration by modifying the definition of “news website” so as to encompass “otherwise eligible news websites that focus on a defined subject area of set of topics.” This follows AIPLA’s previous comments submitted in response to the Office’s January 2024 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding Group Registration of Updates to a News Website (the “2024 Comments”)<sup>1</sup>. We offer some comments and a proposed revision to the Office’s proposed definition of “news website” to further improve the proposal, assuming the Office does not have any operational need to limit eligibility.

As background, we note that the 2026 NPRM proposes to define a “news website” as one that is “primarily designed to be a source of written information on current events, either local, national,

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://www.aipla.org/docs/default-source/advocacy/aipla-comment-re-group-registration-of-updates-to-a-news-website.pdf?sfvrsn=f0ff5a\\_3](https://www.aipla.org/docs/default-source/advocacy/aipla-comment-re-group-registration-of-updates-to-a-news-website.pdf?sfvrsn=f0ff5a_3).

or international in scope.” This would replace the current definition of a “news website,” which is “a website that is designed to be a primary source of written information on current events, either local, national, or international in scope, that contains a broad range of news on all subjects and activities and is not limited to any specific subject matter.”

Consistent with our 2024 Comment, we also agree with the removal of “and is not limited to any specific subject matter” because it could be construed as excluding news websites with an industry-specific focus (e.g., wired.com), and thus unnecessarily limiting access to this group registration option. We also agree with the Office’s assessment that requiring a “news website” to contain “a broad range of news on all subjects and activities and is not limited to any specific subject matter” is unduly restrictive, and that this language should be removed from the definition of “news website.” However, we note that the Supplementary Information in the 2026 NPRM characterizes the “updated definition” of “news website” to reflect that “a news website need only report on a variety of subjects.” While this “variety of subjects” language is more permissive than the “broad range of news on all subjects and activities” language that the Office proposes to delete, it suggests that a “variety” of subjects (i.e., more than one subject) is required. And while this “variety of subjects” language is contained in the Supplementary Information in the 2026 NPRM rather than the proposed updated definition of “news website,” we understand that the Supplementary Information may inform the Office’s future interpretation of that updated definition.

Accordingly, we propose the following definition for “news website” to clarify that such a website need only contain substantive information about one topic (our proposed addition to the Office’s proposed updated definition is shown below in bold underline):

“News website means a website that is primarily designed to be a source of written information on current events **related to one or more topics**, either local, national, or international in scope.”

We believe this version of the updated definition of “news website” would best achieve the Office’s stated objective of ensuring that the definition of “news website” does not operate to exclude otherwise eligible news websites that focus on a defined subject area or set of topics.

While we believe this modification to the updated definition of “news website” would benefit otherwise eligible news websites by expanding access to this group registration option, we recognize that the Office is uniquely positioned to weigh the costs and benefits of such an expansion, based on the Office’s considerable experience administering the current definition over the last few years. If the Office believes that such experience has given rise to a compelling reason to limit eligibility that we are unaware of, this may affect AIPLA’s position on this matter.

One additional item for the Office’s consideration is whether the definition of “news website” should continue to be limited to “written” information. As news continues to be created and consumed through a variety of media, AIPLA believes the Office should consider whether a broader definition may be appropriate. We would prefer that the definition not be limited to written content. However, if the Office is not prepared to make that broader change in this rulemaking, we at least support expanding eligibility for written news websites as proposed here and encourage the Office to consider whether a broader approach may be appropriate in the future.

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AIPLA again commends the Office for seeking to expand group registration options. We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments and would be happy to answer questions they may raise.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Salvatore Anastasi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Salvatore Anastasi

President

American Intellectual Property Law Association