

# AIPLA

## American Intellectual Property Law Association

September 24, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Committee on Rules and Administration  
United States Senate  
305 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6325

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Rules and Administration  
United States Senate  
305 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6325

**Re: Support for H.R. 1695, the Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act of 2017**

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

The American Intellectual Property Law Association (“AIPLA”) is pleased to support H.R. 1695, the “Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act of 2017.” AIPLA welcomes this important proposed reform and urges its prompt consideration.

AIPLA is a national bar association of approximately 13,500 members who are primarily lawyers engaged in private or corporate practice, government service, and 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, trademark, copyright, trade secret, and unfair competition, 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 and authorship while balancing the public’s interest in healthy competition, reasonable costs, and basic fairness.

AIPLA previously provided testimony before the House Judiciary Committee at the February 26, 2015 hearing on “U.S. Copyright Office: Its Functions and Resources.”<sup>1</sup> Consistent with that testimony and with positions developed by AIPLA since the hearing, AIPLA favors action to appropriately modernize the U.S. Copyright Office (the “Office”), enabling it to meet the ever-expanding needs and expectations of Congress, its stakeholders, and the public.

AIPLA also believes that it is key to these modernization efforts that the Office be led by an individual who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. AIPLA supports a strong and balanced copyright system, and it is imperative that the Office is appropriately managed and directed.

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<sup>1</sup> *U.S. Copyright Office: Its Functions and Resources: Hearing Before the Comm. on the Judiciary*, H.R., 114th Cong. 36-51 (2015) (testimony of Nancy J. Mertz, Schoeman Updike Kaufman & Stern LLP, on behalf of the AIPLA (Feb. 26, 2015)) (“Mertz Testimony”), available at [https://judiciary.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/114-4\\_93529.pdf](https://judiciary.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/114-4_93529.pdf).

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AIPLA appreciates the Committee's attention to this issue. We believe that the time has come for this proposed reform, and we look forward to working with the Committee on H.R. 1695 as the process moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myra H. McCormack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Myra H. McCormack

President

American Intellectual Property Law Association