

JOHN LONGENECKER
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August 11, 2008

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Dear John Zollinger:

We spoke on the phone today.

1. USC Leadership Circle

Your view is that because I challenge USC copyright ownership of student-produced short films, you folks do not think it is appropriate to accept my \$1000 for the USC Leadership Circle. Perhaps down the road you folks will have a change of heart. I hope so.

2. USC Copyright Ownership of student short films

Why? Why does USC want to own the Copyright of student short films? John Zollinger had no answer. Steven B. Sample may have no answer. Elizabeth Daley may have no answer. It may be simply USC thinks they can get away with it. It is a brutal thing to do to young film students. It harms and injures them. It is unlawful. It violates the USC Code of Ethics.

3. USC Copyright Policy

You said USC is comfortable with USC ownership of student-produced films based on the 2001 Academic Senate document and the September 2007 Cinema consent form document that USC film students are required to sign before starting classes.

Turns out that Stephen Yamaguchi, University Counsel at the USC Office of General Council (OGC) spoke with you recently and said that based on use of "University resources" USC has a claim to copyright ownership of student-produced short films. Stephen Yamaguchi joined USC's Office of General Counsel in 1999, and may have been in on the August 1999 discussions with Elizabeth Daily and Cornelius Sullivan to discuss and clarify the University's position regarding ownership of student films and videos. Attorneys were in attendance to provide legal counsel. The 2001 USC Intellectual Rights Policy written by consensus by the USC Academic Senate, and the USC Cinema 2007 consent form document, written by consensus of the cinema faculty and students may have had input from Stephen Yamaguchi, Esq.

We may have found a common thread in Stephen Yamaguchi as to why USC Copyright policy is so off base as to U.S. Copyright Law. Way off base. He was wrong in 1999, wrong in 2001, wrong in 2007 and wrong again this week in August 2008. Stephen, go back to contract drafting and negotiation, your understanding of U.S. Copyright Law is excruciatingly limited. Your lack of knowledge of Copyright law continues to harm and injure young film students at USC. Let Steven B. Sample and others know the depth of your incompetent and mistaken legal counsel.

As I understand it, Copyright Ownership has to do with an Author and an Original Work of Authorship. The key provisions of the USC policies have little to do with U.S Copyright Law: University resources - cameras - editing devises - equipment - supplies - funds - guild agreements - insurance.

That's it. Stay Tuned.

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cc: Steven B. Sample, Elizabeth Daley,
Carol Mauch Amir, Stephen Yamaguchi