

Copyright Holders Call on Congress for Stronger Protection

By: Sheldon Mak & Anderson

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In the first of several hearings regarding the future of the U.S. copyright system, content creators argued for stronger protections before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet. The hearing featured testimony from representatives of the Copyright Alliance, Getty Images Inc., the American Society of Media Photographers, Yep Roc Records and Redeye Distribution Inc., and 3-D moviemaker Stereo D LLC

As we have previously discussed on this IP Law Blog, Congress recently embarked on a [broad review of U.S. copyright laws](#) with the goal of updating the country's copyright protection scheme. With the exception of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, most other portions of the Copyright Act date back to 1976.

In their testimony before the committee, copyright holders argued that strong protection is needed to combat infringement in the digital age, particularly online piracy.

"Our goal in reviewing licensure laws should be to protect creativity and still allow for an active and intelligent marketplace for searching and licensing creative works," John Lapham, senior vice president and general counsel of Getty Images, testified. "When we do so we can all benefit from content that moves, inspires, provokes, educates, and encourages."

Representatives from the music and film industries expressed concerns about file sharing and other forms of piracy. "If an environment exists that does not provide adequate copyright protection and blockbuster films become unaffordable and unprofitable due to the threat of piracy, this new and thriving 3-D industry will be significantly hampered and severely impacted," said William Sherak, Stereo D's president. "The reason being that 3-D conversions are normally undertaken on major blockbuster films—the very films that are often the greatest targets of piracy."

The committee will next meet with representatives of the tech community.

Source: [Corporate Counsel](#)

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