

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on the Judiciary**

Washington, DC 20515-6216  
One Hundred Sixteenth Congress

April 3, 2019

Karyn A. Temple, Esq.  
Register of Copyrights and  
Director of the U.S. Copyright Office  
Library of Congress  
101 Independence Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20540

Dear Ms. Temple:

We write to you today following the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision in *Fourth Estate Public Benefit Corporation v. Wall-Street.com, LLC*,<sup>1</sup> which resolved a split among circuit courts of appeal in favor of requiring the Copyright Office to finish the registration process before an infringement lawsuit can be filed. As Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee with oversight of the copyright laws, we are concerned about the impact that this ruling will have on the ability of creators and rights-holders to seek timely relief of infringement due to the amount of time it currently takes to complete the standard registration process.

We are aware that the Copyright Office also has created expedited procedures for registration, although they are more expensive, and has begun the process of making much-needed improvements to the Office's IT systems. We ask for the Copyright Office to provide us with the current status of the length of time it takes to register (particularly whether the seventh-month period cited in *Fourth Estate* is still the average), the different options available to rights-holders for registration, and the Copyright Office's current plan and projections for lowering the time needed for standard registration to be closer to what it was when the relevant statutory provision, 17 U.S.C. § 411(a), was passed.

More generally, so that we can also understand how lowering the registration pendency fits within the broader context of Copyright Office modernization efforts, we request that the Copyright Office continue its practice of producing five-year strategic plans, and issue a strategic plan for 2021-2025.

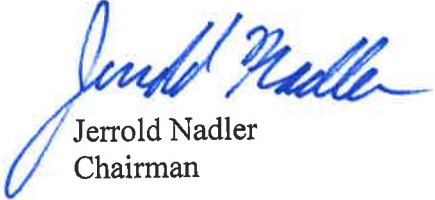
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<sup>1</sup> 139 S. Ct. 881, 887 (2019).

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We look forward to hearing from you on these matters, and to continued work with both the Library and the Copyright Office. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler  
Chairman



Doug Collins  
Ranking Member