

U. S. Supreme Court Ruling Affects all Copyright Owners

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March 4, 2019 – U.S. Supreme Court ruled that in order for a copyright owner to enforce protection for their work and sue for infringement... the infringed work *must have been registered with the U.S. Copyright Office* (i.e., Issuance of a Certificate) and that a mere application for registration will not suffice.

How the ruling affects all self-published authors and creators...

The ruling makes it even more imperative that copyright owners *register their works promptly if they wish to enforce their rights* — on top of the already considerable financial incentives that a U.S. copyright provides for registered works, including recovery of attorney fees and up to \$150,000 in statutory damages for early registrations. Since it may take up to 9+ months to receive a certificate of registration, an author or creator of books, photos, illustrations, audio or video should *immediately start the registration process – even before it is published*.

While expedited registration remains available to copyright claimants for a fee, the Court's new ruling is most likely to impact copyright holders for whom *a delay of even a few weeks in bringing suit could prove irreparable* — particularly those seeking temporary restraining orders or other preliminary injunctive relief.

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