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To: Jule L. Sigall Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 03/14/2005

From: Justin Kear

Comment:

Think back to the intent of copyrights - to allow people a period of time wherein they could have exclusive rights to something they created, so as to provide them support as they began work on new works.

In the case of products for which there is no known owner, there can be no possible benefit to the owner. With the recent copyright extension, any orphaned works will have long since vanished from the world by the time they would enter the public domain.

Clearly, the only reasonable solution is to, upon discovering that a work has no apparent owner, place the work into the public domain.