Supreme Court declines Google appeal in copyright case
“The Supreme Court declined on Monday [6-29-15] to hear Google’s appeal of an ongoing dispute.” [See related articles below on API]

Sci-Hub Tears Down Academia’s “Illegal” Copyright Paywalls
“In a lawsuit filed by Elsevier, one of the largest academic publishers, Sci-Hub.org is facing millions of dollars in damages. However, the site has no intentions of backing down and will continue its fight to keep access to scientific knowledge free and open. "I think Elsevier's business model is itself illegal," Sci-Hub founder Alexandra Elbakyan says.”

Who owns your face? Weak laws give power to Facebook
“In a fateful moment for privacy, Facebook’s “Moments” uses facial recognition to expose where people went and who they were with.”

Understanding Why the Copyright Office is Looking into 3D Printing
“There are numerous differences between 2D and 3D printing – from the materials used, to the output of the machines, to the brand names of the companies involved in the market. However, in the context of the DMCA and unlocking, 2D and 3D printing are remarkably similar.”

What People Are Asking: What is the difference between trademark and copyright?
“Dear Librarian.”

Digital Information Law © Blog
The latest from Ms. Gretchen McCord, JD: Plagiarism, Copyright Infringement, and Fair Use
Only The Copyright Office Would 'Fix' The Problem Of Orphan Works By Doubling Down On The Problem Itself
“It's the result of a forced switch from a system that required registration to get a copyright, to one where everything is automatically covered by copyright.”

Amendments to Copyright Act will strengthen copyright holders' rights online
“The Copyright Amendment (Online Infringement) Act 2015, which commenced on Friday, introduces new laws to give rights holders who discover infringing material online a way of requiring carriage service providers (CSPs) to take reasonable steps to block access to the content, via an injunction from the Federal Court.”

US Copyright Office's Proposal On Orphan Works Wouldn't Be Allowed If TPP Is Ratified
‘Nuff said.

Abbott & Costello Heirs Sue Play For Briefly Using 'Who's On First?' Routine
I don't know’s on third...

What The Oracle-Google Copyright Fight Has To Do With Klingon... And Lots Of Other Innovations
“We've already written plenty on the Obama administration's absolutely ridiculous filing in the Oracle/Google case concerning the copyrightability of APIs.”

The DOJ's Copyright Fetish Might Screw Up the Internet's Future
“Two weeks ago, the Department of Justice’s top Supreme Court lawyers filed a brief in an extremely important case that concerns ... whether API interfaces should be copyrightable. I know the copyrightability of API interfaces (to be explained below) sounds pretty nerdy, but, ... you should know two things. One, the case will affect all your friends with Android phones. Two, it will also affect anyone who uses the Internet, now or years from now.”

As Facebook Video Swells, YouTube Creators Cry Foul Over Copyright Infringement
“As Facebook has briskly emerged as YouTube’s first forbidding challenger in online video, racking up 4 billion views per day, the social network may have a mounting copyright issue on its hands -- one that smacks of a similar conflict YouTube faced in its early days.”
**Copyright Infringement Notification Scam**

“So a friend recently I got this Email from Brighthouse, or so it would seem. This however was not the case. She read over the email that she got one early Sunday Morning Time Stamp (Sun, 21 Jun 2015 01:35:49 -0700 (PDT)) (1st clue) she got worried as any upstanding American should. What's going on [?]…”

**GCHQ Asked Court To Let It Infringe On Anti-Virus Copyrights... For National Security**

“The GCHQ obtained a warrant to reverse engineer Kapersky products because it felt the company's software was "obstructing" its hacking attempts.”

**ALA Slams Bid to Modernize U.S. Copyright Office**

“‘The bill’s proposal to make the Copyright Office an independent agency does not address the longstanding problems facing the agency,’ Young said ..., “specifically that the Copyright Office’s information technology systems are woefully inadequate in serving both rights holders and the public in the digital environment.””

**City Tries To Silence YouTube Critic By Suing For Copyright Infringement**

“This is a pretty stunning example of censorship by copyright -- from a *literal government*.”

**The Strange Case of 'Mr. Holmes' Vs. U.S. Copyright Law**

“In November of 2014, the Supreme Court of the United States rejected the appeal from the Conan Doyle estate and the Sherlock Holmes and Watson characters were legally protected property of the American public domain. However, that hasn’t stopped the Conan Doyle Estate from trying to get its money wherever it can.”

**We aren’t the copyright cops, ICANN’s president says**

“The Internet is inching ever closer to becoming the equal, nonpartisan network it was always meant to be. And one of the top officials leading that charge is vowing not to let any single corporate or government actor derail that project — including the United States.”

**Soundcloud Is About To Be Hit With Copyright Infringement Lawsuits**

“Okay but seriously, this really is the end of Soundcloud y’all. After years of operation without any massive reproach, Soundcloud is about to come under fire by the likes of Universal Music Group, Sony Music Entertainment and arguably the biggest dog of them all, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).”
Justin Bieber, Usher ordered to face copyright lawsuit
“Justin Bieber and Usher were ordered by a U.S. appeals court on Thursday to face a $10 million lawsuit claiming the singers illegally copied parts of a song composed by two Virginia songwriters.”

SiriusXM Finally Wins A Case Over Pre-1972 Music... And Promptly Settles Such Cases With RIAA
“We've written plenty about the mess around pre-1972 sound recordings and online streaming services. Technically, federal copyright law does not apply to sound recordings from before 1972. And while that might make you think they're in the public domain, that's not true at all.”
Related: SiriusXM to Pay Labels $210 Million Over Copyright Battle

FREE BOOKS: 100 legal sites to download literature
“...100 links to websites that provide free e-books on a huge variety of topics.”

Marvel Blasts ‘Iron Man’ Copyright Claims; Wants Case Tossed Or Moved
“In what could be a multi-billion dollar case, Horizon owners Ben and Ray Lai allege that Marvel and Disney stole the Iron Man armor look for the blockbuster Robert Downey Jr-starring pics from their Radix comics, which first appeared in 2001.”

J.D. Salinger Lawyers Fire Back in Copyright Battle
“The March, 2015 lawsuit accuses the Salinger Literary Trust of “tortiously interfering” with the Devault-Graves Agency’s attempts to license foreign editions of its book, J.D. Salinger: Three Early Stories, a collection of three Salinger works that had each lapsed into the U.S. public domain decades ago.”

Disney Settles 'Frozen' Copyright Lawsuit
“‘Well, that’s one lawsuit that’s been put on ice. Just under two months after The Walt Disney Company failed for the second time to get Kelly Wilson’s copyright action over Frozen tossed out of federal court, the two sides have reached a deal.”

Hoover Dam artist wins $1.3 million in copyright lawsuit
“An artist [Steven Liguori] has won almost $1.35 million in a lawsuit over a sculpture commemorating workers who were paid $5 per day to risk their lives during the construction of Hoover Dam.”
Do copyrights for books, music also apply to cars?
“The U.S. Copyright Office will likely decide within months whether a law [i.e., the DMCA] written partly to protect literature and music copyrights in the digital age also prevents car owners and mechanics from making vehicle repairs or diagnoses.”

Copyright and the Internet: Getting the Balance Right
“There is no “silver bullet.” Curtailing online infringement will require a combination of litigation, technology, enhanced private-sector initiatives, public education and continuing development of readily accessible and legally available content offerings. As the Internet continues to develop, the best approach to protecting copyright in the online environment is to rely on existing legal tools, enhanced cooperation among Internet stakeholders and business innovations that lessen incentives to infringe.”

Brooklyn Artist Sues Starbucks for Alleged Copyright Infringement
"The design of the mini Frappuccino cups may not be an original idea by Starbucks."

Four Industry Experts Explain What's Wrong With Current Copyright Laws
“The fallout from the landmark Marvin Gaye vs. Robin Thicke and Pharrell case, in which Gaye's estate was awarded a victory because Thicke's "Blurred Lines" emulated the style of "Got To Give It Up," highlighted the issue to the average music fan, leaving many of us scratching our heads. How do you quantify vibes and musical textures? The decision gave many people pause and, months later, we’re still wondering how, and whether, the laws will ever catch up to the times.”

Three Of The Most Commonly Misunderstood Music Copyright Laws [sic]
“1. The performance right; 2. The right to make changes to others' songs; 3. Fair use”

Instagram Has A Totally New Look, Copyright Loopholes, And Celebrity Secrets
“Instagram also has copyright loopholes. If you’re a photographer who shares your work on the app, then you may have a hard time protecting it. Emily Wang realized that one of her followers was stealing her photos and Photoshopping them. Emily reported the incident to Instagram and eventually had the photos removed, but it required her months of reporting every single incident to the company. Long story short, Instagram offers little support when it comes to copyrighting images and having them stolen.”
Appropriation art meets Instagram: Is copyright law ready?
“Prince is an appropriation artist; ... In his new work, Prince isn’t borrowing from established artists—he may be borrowing from you. His new show in New York’s Frieze Art Fair includes blown up images taken (I assume, without authorization) from other people’s Instagram accounts. According to The Washington Post, Prince left the images and the usernames intact, but he substituted his own, somewhat unusual comments beneath the images.”

CCA Urges Copyright Office to Extend Legal Unlocking Rules
“The issue is near and dear to the hearts of CCA’s carrier members, as customers looking to leave the larger carriers often need to have their devices unlocked in order to switch to another provider.”

Intellectual Property Law and Your Mobile App: What You Need to Know
“Before you create and release your mobile app, consider intellectual property from two angles. First, focus on how to protect your own IP. Second, be considerate of the IP of others.”

Legal debates continue on the copyright status of ‘Happy Birthday’
“Whereas in Europe, the copyright in ‘Happy Birthday’ will expire in 2016, 70 years after the death of Smith, who wrote the song with her sister Mildred Hill, in the US the term of the copyright is more complicated, because of American copyright rules in the early 20th century, and the fact that those rules changed in 1923.”

Film & TV copyright – The Facts
“Film copyrights last 70 years after the death of the last survivor on the production, whether that is the director, screenwriter or composer. So, what are the facts and what are some of the most famous cases of copyrighting?”

Steve Albini declares copyright dead
“The legendary music producer follows up on his classic 20 year old rant about the music industry's awfulness with a modern, streaming-era wholesale dismissal of copyright and its business-models.”

Toho Sues US Studio, Alleges Godzilla Copyright Violation
©1954 Toho

Summaries of Fair Use Cases
From Stanford University Libraries.
3D Printed Copyright Creep
“3D printing is an emerging engine for innovation, and because of that this issue would be important even in isolation. However, the battle being fought over 3D printer material occurs against the backdrop of other attempts to use copyright as a pretext to limit consumer choice in all sorts of contexts.”

10 Helpful Websites for Protecting Your Photography Copyrights
“Sharing your images with the world and gaining exposure has never been easier, but the risk that someone may decide to steal your work is also increasing. Protecting your images on the web should be at the forefront of your thought process when uploading a new potential masterpiece. To help you out, we have established a list of ten sites that can assist you in your creative endeavor.”

Muzzling Hitler? Soon, German Copyright Law Won’t Do the Trick
“While Nazi propaganda is available in many countries, German officials have used intellectual-property law to limit circulation of “Mein Kampf,” Nazi films, and books and newspapers from the era. That tool will soon disappear: Copyrights in Germany expire after 70 years, so by next year most of the material will be in the public domain.”

Beyoncé Issues Super Sassy Response To $7 Million Copyright Lawsuit
‘Nuff said.

Northwestern settles copyright infringement lawsuit with former employee over Leopold-Loeb book
“Northwestern intends to jointly publish a book about the 1924 Leopold and Loeb murder trial with a former employee after dismissing a copyright infringement lawsuit against her.”

Appeals Court Sides With Google in Copyright Case over Anti-Islam Video
“The ruling reverses an earlier decision that forced Google to take the Innocence of Muslims film off YouTube.”

Producers’ Coalition Says Copyright Alert System Has Failed to Stop Piracy
6 strikes are you are not out...

'Stairway' copyright lawsuit moved from Philadelphia court
[Led Zeppelin’s Stairway to Heaven court] “Case transferred to Central District of California.”
Emergence of Live Streaming Apps Brings Up Copyright, Privacy, Legal Concerns
Monday, May 4, 2015: “The big fight may be over, but the implications of Mayweather vs. Pacquiao with respect to real-time, one-to-many streaming of video through apps like Meerkat and Periscope are still rippling through the media industry. In short, livestreaming apps allow anyone with a smartphone to effortlessly broadcast live video to social media followers and the wider internet …”

'Blurred Lines' Judge Asked to Grant New Trial
“The newest stage of the copyright battle over "Blurred Lines" has commenced with new motions being presented on Friday (May 1) in a fight resulted in a $7.4 million jury verdict this past March.”

MPAA Funds Pro-Copyright Scholars to Influence Politics
“... the MPAA opened applications for a new round of research grants, hoping the result will be "pro-copyright" academic papers. In an email leaked in the Sony hack the movie industry group further says it's looking for pro-copyright scholars who they can cultivate for further public advocacy.”

The DMCA and fair use: Has anti-circumvention gone too far?
“There is no doubt a need for protections for electronic media and software to prevent unchecked piracy. But that protection must not come at the expense of fair use. That protection must still allow for access when warranted. Otherwise, copyright is failing to live up to its Constitutional origin and is fostering profit over free expression.”

Comic Artists Claim Copyright On Metallic Suits And The Three Point Landing
“Once again: you cannot copyright an idea. You can only copyright a particular expression of your idea. And, yes, the line between the two has sometimes been blurred, but it doesn't change the basics.”

Libraries concerned over copyright changes
“Libraries have expressed human rights concerns over proposed copyright changes, saying website blocking should be used as a last resort.”

Estate Of Joseph Goebbels Using Copyright To Demand Cash From New Biographer
“Most of the debate focuses on whether or not it is appropriate for money to "go to a war criminal," as Random House's top lawyer complains. There is also some discussion of who owns
the copyright, as some believe that when the US seized the Nazis' publishing house and got the copyright on Mein Kampf, it also got the copyright on Goebbels' works.”

**The messy history of music copyright suits**

“Music lawyer Kenneth Abdo perhaps put it best when he said, “There is an old saying in the music industry...if you get a hit, you will get a writ.””

**Empty Promise of the Poor Man’s Copyright**

“If you’re an artist, musician, writer, or even tangentially involved with the creative arts then you’ve probably heard of the “poor man’s copyright.” It’s supposed to be a savvy way to reap the benefits of copyright registration without wasting exorbitant sums on filing fees. It’s cheap, fast and easy. It’s also useless.”

**“Adult Wednesday Addams” Pulled From YouTube Over Copyright**

“Apparently there’s such a thing as a parody web series being too good. The hit series “Adult Wednesday Addams“ created by Melissa Hunter has disappeared from YouTube after the original creators of “The Addams Family” flagged it.”