New Fair Use Guide Helps Distinguish Between Copyright and Copywrong

“Hoping to remedy pervasive and often crippling uncertainty among artists and art professionals over how and when to invoke fair use when dealing with copyrighted materials, the College Art Association (CAA) has released a “Code of Best Practices in Fair Use.”

Fair Use Is Not An Exception to Copyright, It’s Essential to Copyright

“Over the past two years, as talk of copyright reform has escalated, we’ve also heard complaints about the supposed expansion of fair use, or "fair use creep." That kind of talk woefully misunderstands how fair use works.”

Related: "Fair Use Is Working!": 2014 in Review

Congress’s Copyright Review Should Strengthen Fair Use—Or At Least Do No Harm

“Congress could help fix these problems by clarifying that statutory damages should never apply to a copyright user who relies on a fair use defense in good faith, even if the defense is unsuccessful. That would make relying on fair use a predictable, manageable risk that more artists and innovators will be able to take.”

Katy Perry’s 'Left Shark' spurs 3D printing copyright battle

“"Left Shark," a backup dancer at this year's Super Bowl, has become a popular project for 3D printing enthusiasts. But pop star Katy Perry's lawyers have sent notices to cease and desist, citing copyright claim. We look at intellectual property in the age of 3D printers...”

Sioux Falls Maker Accused of Infringing on Copyright Laws with 3D Models of Michelangelo’s Statues

“What about objects and works of art, especially very old ones, that are out in public though, that seem to be public domain? Is it legal to use photographs of them? Is it legal to 3D scan these and make our own 3D models?”
College Claims Copyright On 16th Century Michelangelo Sculpture, Blocks 3D Printing Files
“For many years we’ve been warning that intellectual property wars over things like music and movies were just a preview to the sort of insanity that would come about when 3D printing goes mainstream. We’ve seen some copyright takedowns of 3D printed objects in the past, but here's an absolutely crazy one.”

Legal Lessons From 'Jersey Boys' Copyright Infringement Case
“On February 10, 2015, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Donna Corbello v. Thomas Gaetano DeVito, et al. overturned a lower court ruling in favor of Valli and Gaudio and sent the case back down for further proceedings.”

The one copyright issue everyone should agree on
“Register of Copyrights Maria Pallante has repeatedly called for support in bringing the Office into the 21st Century, and Congress seems to agree it's an issue worth taking up.”

The Copyright Office: Our bastard stepchild six times removed
“The House Judiciary Committee yesterday held a hearing titled “The U.S. Copyright Office: Its Functions and Resources”. At the hearing, much of the discussion focused on creating independence for the Copyright Office, which is not a stand-alone governmental body, and the challenges it faces due to its placement in the Library of Congress. Witnesses unanimously agreed that the Copyright Office needs increased funding and better infrastructure to properly perform its duties. In short, the Copyright Office needs autonomy.”

4 Ways Copyright Law Actually Controls Your Whole Digital Life
“If you ever use a computer, or read, watch, look at, use, or listen to any piece of media or software created since printing or recording were invented, copyright law affects you.”

Georgia Tech Research Finds Copyright Confusion has 'Chilling Effects' in Online Creative Publishing
“... [F]ive major problem or challenge areas identified...”

Transparency is Necessary to Ensure the Copyright Industry Won't Sneak Policies Through the Back Door
“The main problem is that our policymakers are primarily concerned with the interests of major corporate copyright-holders, and what these industry representatives claim is beneficial for creators are often at odds with the greater common interest. That's why we have extreme criminal provisions around the circumvention of DRM, that prevent us knowing and controlling the devices that we own, and why websites have come to censor all kinds of legitimate speech in the name of copyright enforcement.”

The crazy copyright that keeps MLK’s “I Have a Dream” speech locked up
“The audio, video, and text remain under copyright from the King family estate, which has been aggressively litigious against organizations that publish the speech without paying a fee.”

Related: Martin Luther King's heirs milk a legacy: Our view
How Copyright Forced A Filmmaker To Rewrite Martin Luther King's Historic Words
The World’s Most Idiotic Copyright Complaint
“A music group’s anti-piracy system has just sent Google the most staggeringly ridiculous DMCA notices the planet has EVER seen. If you aren’t sitting down, please do so now. Remove tight clothing, open a window and get a glass of water. This one is absolutely epic.”

Google’s quest to make art available to everyone was foiled by copyright concerns
“When Google launched its “Art Project” four years ago, it touted it as a huge boon for freedom of information and cultural connectivity. But if you peek into any of the museums on Google Street View now, you’ll notice lots of big, blurred rectangles where paintings should be — the result of a copyright system that keeps even important artworks from being viewed publicly.”

Mother Teresa Painting Removed From Trumbull Library
“The painting, which Dr. Richard Resnick donated to the library, shows Mother Teresa and other women marching, holding signs that say messages including "Planned Parenthood," "Mission of Charity," "Feed the Poor," "Remember The Ladies," "Hospital Reform" and "Right to Vote," among others.”
Related: In Trumbull: Copyright or censorship? Mother Teresa painting comes down

Copyright case reveals that Blurred Lines made $16 million for Robin Thicke, Pharrell and T.I. as they battle Marvin Gaye’s children in court
Go Motown: “Can I Get a Witness”

Judge: Dish Features Don’t Violate Copyright
“A federal judge said Dish Network’s offering of features that automatically skip ads and another that allows subscribers to watch live broadcasts remotely do not violate copyright law. But U.S. District Judge Dolly M. Gee’s ruling came just days after Dish and [sic] said that a settlement of their litigation was “highly likely.””
Related: With Highly Anticipated Copyright Decision, The AutoHop Litigation Is Coming to a Close

EFF urges car-repair, DVD-remixing exemptions to copyright law
“U.S. copyright law should allow for people to bypass digital rights management technologies as a way to tinker with a wide variety of products, including cars, DVDs and old video games, the Electronic Frontier Foundation said.”

Who Owns What When a Copyrighted Work is Created in the Workplace
“Something employers, employees and contractors don’t often consider is the ownership and attribution of copyrighted property created for an employer on behalf of an employee. Copyright has value, so the ownership of it might sometimes come into dispute. Clear agreements as to the ownership and attribution of intellectual property provide insight – i.e., any works created by an author as a result of the course and scope of that author’s employment with a company are company property. What happens, however, when a clear agreement isn’t in place? Who owns the intellectual property then?”
YouTube can’t weed out Gaelic porn, thinks cat purring violates copyright
“It’s been an interesting week for YouTube. First they discovered a stash of porn videos that managed to survive on the site for months. Then they started flagging purring cats as copyright infringers.”

Copyright Law Is Eating Away At Our Cultural History: And It's Time To Fix That
Nuff said.

Where Copyright Fails, New Laws and Guidelines Help Secure Your Right to Tinker
“It may seem odd to say so during Copyright Week, but copyright in itself isn't very important. Sure, EFF expends a lot of time and energy arguing about copyright law, and some of our adversaries spend even more. But we don't do so because copyright has any independent value. Rather, its value is derived from its ability to “promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts” (in the words of the US Constitution), as well as to promote other important values such as the rights to freedom of expression, privacy, education, and participation in cultural life.”

Common core review commission worried that keeping standards would violate copyright law
“… [C]ommission members quickly ran into a road block when the issue of the Common Core’s copyright arose, with some members becoming concerned that attempts to revise the standards, instead of scrapping them wholesale, would be met with a lawsuit. “

Copyright Office suggests overhaul of music licensing
“The U.S. Copyright Office issued a long-awaited report recommending changes to federal music copy-right laws. Now the focus shifts to Congress for whether legislation will be pursued.” The full report and executive summary are available at the © Office: http://copyright.gov/docs/musiclicensingstudy/.
Related: Proposed changes in copyright law could render online music streaming more expensive

Bob Dylan Makes the Case Against Today's Copyright Climate
“In a 20 minute speech, Bob Dylan explains how copyright is detrimental to cultural heritage without mentioning the word.”

Copyright is Broken. Can Congress Fix It?
“History was made at this year's Grammy Awards. For the first time, the serious challenges facing recording artists were being talked about on a globally televised music awards show with hundreds of millions of viewers watching.”

How Copyright Terms Restrict Scholarship
“In order to write a book about the Wonder Woman comics, Noah Berlatsky had to resort to pirated reprints.”
What Happens When Mein Kampf's Copyright Expires?

“While historians have long debated how many Germans actually read Mein Kampf during the Third Reich, today a different question has arisen: Will anyone in Germany read it once it can be legally published there in early 2016? And what might be the impact on a digital generation for whom the Führer is a distant memory or internet meme [Cats that look like Hitler()]?” Spike Jones said it best: When der Führer says, “Ve ist der master race,” we Heil, Heil right in der Führer’s face.

To understanding [sic] the copyright protections of pre-1972 sound recordings you have to keep on trunkin’ with Hot Tuna and the sounds of the 60s

“Do music streaming services need to pay royalties to play classic rock? It’s actually an open question. Some services have refused to pay performance royalties for all pre-1972 recordings. For many years, a false rumor persisted that because pre-1972 recordings are not protected by federal copyright law, they are not protected at all, and one need not pay royalties to use such recordings. To understand why that rumor is false, one needs to understand something about the history of legal protection for sound recordings in the U.S.”

Music copyright laws are antiquated
Bloomberg video: 3’43”

‘Music Creators Should Be Compensated,’ Says Copyright Office

“Government agency tries to close bizarre legal loophole allowing online streaming services to not pay royalties for pre-1972 songs.”

Really, Facebook copyright warnings are worthless and annoying

“We’ve all seen them. Anyone who hasn’t should understand that by copying and pasting a bunch of legal-sounding rhetoric to a Facebook page isn’t going to protect anyone from anything. In fact, there is nothing to be protected from. Let’s examine this pesky little problem.”

“YODA law” would ensure devices can be resold free of copyright

“Cue the “pass this law, we must” jokes. On Wednesday, lawmakers reintroduced the “You Own Devices Act” (YODA) to make sure that manufacturers can’t use copyright mind tricks to prevent consumers from selling or giving away the connected devices they own.”

Negotiators Burn Their Last Opportunity to Salvage the TPP by Caving on Copyright Term Extension

“New reports indicate that Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiators have agreed to language that would bind its 12 signatory nations to extend copyright terms to match the United States’ already excessive length of copyright. This provision expands the reach of the controversial US Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act (or the “Mickey Mouse Act” as it was called due to Disney’s heavy lobbying) to countries of the Pacific region.”
Sirius will take pre-1972 state copyright case straight to appeals court
"1960s rock band The Turtles wants to get paid under state copyright laws. "There is in fact a difficult legal question about which reasonable minds can differ," wrote US District Judge Colleen McMahon in her [order (PDF)]."

Selma and re-writing history: Is it a copyright problem?
"Copyright may have many faults and flaws, but certainly does not prevent one from quoting from a work, provided that use of the quotation can be considered a fair use..."

Reddit Rejects 62% of All Copyright Complaints
"Reddit has published its first transparency report, providing an insight into backroom events at the news and social networking giant. On the copyright front the site details the takedown requests that it receives and notes that almost two-thirds are rejected as unlawful or overbroad.”

From vinyl to digital - the second hand digital music market and implications for copyright
“A single digital file is never truly “sold” to another person but rather another copy must be made.”

Copyright in Public Places
“The advent of the Internet and digital technologies has blurred the lines of demarcation between public and private places, placing an undue burden on those experiencing or performing copyrighted works as to when a particular performance of a work necessitates obtaining a public performance license from the copyright holder.”

Nike targeted in copyright suit that has distinct trademark implications
“In a suit centred on the iconic Jordan Brand ‘Jumpman’ logo, a photographer is suing Nike for direct, vicarious and contributory copyright infringement, and for violations of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. While a copyright suit, it is one for trademark professionals to follow.”

Twitch Is Introducing A Music Library To Ease Copyright Issues
“Twitch describes it as “a library of songs pre-cleared for Twitch broadcasters to use live and with VODs” with those songs being provided by “established and burgeoning” labels...”

Ask the Lawyer: Why can’t a great idea be copyrighted?
“A: Section 102(b) of the Copyright Act states “In no case does any copyright protection for an original work of authorship extend to any idea ...”"

Google Looks to Narrow both Copyrights and Patents through Supreme Court Action
“The focus of Google v. Oracle (Sct. Docket No. 14-410) is the extent that software is eligible for copyright protection.”
Prominent YouTube Personality Locked Out Of His Account After A Bogus Copyright Claim
"Jacksepticeye had put together a video featuring two bots carrying on a conversation. One was Cleverbot Evie. The other was Talking Angela, the female spinoff of the ultra-popular Talking Tom app. Fun stuff, probably, but we can't see it (at the moment) because of some unpleasant takedown shenanigans."

No, "Poor Man's Copyright" Does Not Exist
"It sounds almost too good to be true: Instead of going through all the paperwork and hassle of registering a copyright, all you have to do is send your work to yourself by mail to be protected. It's called "poor man's copyright" and there's only one problem with the process. It doesn't exist."

Chilling Effects DMCA Archive Censors Itself
"The much-praised Chilling Effects DMCA archive has taken an unprecedented step by censoring its own website. Facing criticism from copyright holders, the organization decided to wipe its presence from all popular search engines. A telling example of how pressure from rights holders causes a chilling effect on free speech."

Bill Would Change Copyright Law to Protect Gay Couples
"A bill has been reintroduced that its backers say will ensure that married couples get equal treatment under the Copyright Act."

Universal Sues Companies That Sell Mixtapes for Prisoners
"Claims selling the mixtapes, which include artists like Steve Wonder, Eminem and the Jackson Five, is copyright infringement."

Making Creative Copyright Law | Peer to Peer Review
"For libraries, it is important to remember that we are favored actors under copyright law."

You’re about to see a lot more (legal) versions of “The Scream”
"Each January 1, the copyright on a raft of artistic works expires and they enter the public domain. It’s an occurrence celebrated annually as Public Domain Day."

Google Was Asked To Delete 345 Million Links In 2014 Over Copyright Infringement
Nuff said.