



April 18, 2022

Director Kathi Vidal  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
600 Dulany St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Director Vidal,

We write to congratulate you on your confirmation as the Director of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (PTO). With your engineering background and extensive litigation experience you are deeply familiar with the critical importance of intellectual property protection both to the hard work of creativity and to its contributions to jobs, wages and U.S. economic growth.

We are excited to welcome you to your new role, which will assist millions of our country’s creators to flourish. As PTO Director, your Office is vital to the U.S. government’s work to champion creativity and its contributions to our country. As U.S. patent holder Albert Einstein proclaimed, “a society’s competitive advantage will come not from how well its schools teach multiplication and periodic tables, but from how well they stimulate imagination and creativity.” The Digital Creators Coalition (DCC) agrees, and very much looks forward to your leadership at PTO and its work to advance copyright protection and enforcement around the world.

While you are already familiar with many of the member organizations that compose the DCC, we are writing to introduce our organization and the international copyright priorities our members share. The DCC is composed of associations, companies, and other entities that represent a broad, diverse and inclusive set of representatives from the creative sector, including individual creators, labor organizations, and businesses, both large and small, in the music, movies, television, authors, publishers, photography, media, and sports communities. The DCC’s mission is to advance the U.S. creative community’s interests in the online environment internationally, and we are united in our resolve that strong protection for American creators should be a top priority for PTO engagement with countries around the world.

American creators have contributed to the culture and economy of our country in incomparable ways – through creating high-quality, well-paying jobs, increasing GDP, and driving U.S. exports and trade surplus (See our Power of American Creativity infographic attached for more information). Creators play a critical role in our society – they inform, entertain, and move us to rise above, exceed expectations, and lift our spirits, especially in the unprecedented times we

have been living through since 2020. President Biden himself stated, “when the pandemic hit, singers, songwriters, and artists from all across America used their talents to lift us up, and to inspire us to support one another in these difficult times.”<sup>1</sup> Creativity is one of the defining features of American culture and serves as one of our nation’s most robust economic engines, providing that same positive impact to so many others around the world.

Strong copyright protection and enforcement ensures the American creative community can thrive and drive America’s culture and economy forward. The DCC looks forward to working with you to build strong copyright protection systems around the world and to maintain our country’s status as a world leader in promoting creativity and protecting copyright overseas. A system that protects creators and cherishes American creativity will bolster the livelihoods of millions of American workers and act as a model for the world at large. Your leadership at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office will play a critical role in strengthening the global rules that American creators depend on.

The DCC has been fortunate to work with your excellent team in the Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA), and we look forward to the continued prioritization of their critical work to promote strong copyright protection internationally. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our goals and to work with you and OPIA in partnership to promote strong U.S. policy and international engagement to on these vital issues.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Recorded Music  
Alliance for Women Film Composers  
American Association of Independent Music  
American Society for Collective Rights Licensing  
American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers  
American Society of Media Photographers  
Artist Rights Alliance  
Association of American Publishers  
The Authors Guild  
Broadcast Music, Inc.  
Copyright Alliance  
Copyright Clearance Center  
CreativeFuture  
Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO  
Future of Music Coalition  
Getty Images  
Global Innovation Policy Center  
Independent Film & Television Alliance  
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees  
International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition  
International Intellectual Property Alliance  
Motion Picture Association

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<sup>1</sup> A Proclamation on World Intellectual Property Day, 2021, 86 FED. REG. 22339 (Apr. 23, 2021).

National Music Publishers' Association  
News Corp  
News Media Alliance  
Production Music Association  
Professional Photographers of America  
The Recording Academy  
Recording Industry Association of America  
Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists  
The Society of Composers & Lyricists  
Songwriters Guild of America  
SoundExchange