



9/10/2019

RE: H.R. 2426 and S. 1273, the Copyright Alternative Small-Claims Enforcement Act, CASE Act of 2019, SUPPORT

The Board of Directors of Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts (TALA) has voted to support the Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act (CASE Act), H.R. 2426 and the companion Senate bill S. 1273. The CASE Act establishes an alternative dispute resolution process within the Copyright office for copyright related small claims.

Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts serves low income artists in Texas. TALA assists creative professionals to develop income streams and build strong creative careers. Protecting creative output is at the heart of artistic practices. At present, the only option for an artist to legally enforce copyright is in Federal court, which is time consuming and difficult to navigate on a pro se basis. Furthermore, litigation in Federal court is extremely costly and it is highly unlikely that lower and middle class artists will have the funds to hire an attorney to pursue a just outcome. Therefore, many creatives are effectively excluded from the current enforcement system and theft of creative works goes primarily unchecked.

Due to technological advances, TALA has seen an increase in copyright infringement complaints. Given the ease of access to artist creative content via the internet, infringement claims will only rise. It is imperative that there be a more straightforward and affordable process for enforcing one's copyright.

The creative sector is a significant economic driver. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) shows that the arts contribute \$763.6 billion to the U.S. economy and employ 4.9 million workers. An alternative dispute resolution format as proposed in the Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act would enable copyright owners to better protect their work and allow the creative community the freedom to pursue and protect their art as a business.

Passing the CASE Act will bring positive change to the copyright system. We request your support of the creative community in Texas, and particularly lower income artists and creative businesses.

Sincerely,

Alissa McCain

Executive Director