



**BEFORE THE
U.S. COPYRIGHT OFFICE**

**Group Registration of Updates to a
News Website**

Docket No. 2026–5

The Copyright Alliance appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments in response to the [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (NPRM) published by the U.S. Copyright Office in the Federal Register on May 28, 2026, regarding an update to its regulation governing the group registration for news websites that revises the definition of “news website” to clarify the types of works eligible for the group registration option.

The Copyright Alliance is a non-profit, non-partisan public interest and educational organization representing the copyright interests of over 2 million individual creators and over 15,000 organizations in the United States, across the spectrum of copyright disciplines. The Copyright Alliance is dedicated to advocating policies that promote and preserve the value of copyright, and to protecting the rights of creators and innovators. The individual creators and organizations that we represent rely on copyright law to protect their creativity, efforts, and investments in the creation and distribution of new copyrighted works for the public to enjoy. This includes creators and organizations such as reporters, journalists, writers, editors, photographers, newspaper publishers, and other members of the press community who rely on copyright and the benefits of copyright registration to protect their creative journalistic works.

We would like to start by thanking the Copyright Office for codifying a final rule in 2024 to establish a group registration option for updates to a news website, which addressed news

publishers' dire need of an effective and flexible solution, mitigating registration obstacles publishers face when registering their dynamic online content. The rule represents an important step in the copyright registration modernization process.

We also commend the Office for recognizing that the existing regulation needed to be clarified and for publishing and soliciting input on this proposed update to the definition of "news websites," which will build upon the 2024 final rule by providing clarity and certainty to news publishers when they register their online news websites. It is our hope that this proposed rule can go into effect as soon as possible so that news publishers that have been uncertain of whether their website content is eligible for this group registration because their news websites focus on a set of subject areas or topics can imminently register their works using this option.

We support the proposed revision because it provides clarity that the final rule does not unnecessarily restrict or leave out certain news publishers from benefitting from this group registration option. This new definition will further enable news and media publishers to meaningfully enjoy the benefits arising from copyright registration for digital news content, including being able to file a lawsuit in federal court and, when appropriate, to recover statutory damages for editions as a collective work and, when they also establish an independent economic value and ownership, for the individual articles within the collective work.

Overall, the current proposed revised definition more comprehensively captures the breadth of copyrightable news content that is being disseminated and consumed in the digital context. We commend the Office on clarifying that the definition is not intended to exclude news websites which cover specific topics. Digital news, due to its ability to reach readers across different localities who share similar interests, can be more tailored toward particular topics of interest as readers are often looking to read individual news articles on specific subjects or issues.

To maximize the clarifying effects and benefits of the proposed rule, we urge expeditious adoption of the revised definition and for the Copyright Office to apply the rule to any applications pending, even if they were filed under the old standard. Such expeditious adoption will allow the Office to

examine and register pending applications under the revised definition, thereby alleviating any backlog and confirming the eligibility of those works under this clarified rule.

We again applaud the Copyright Office for taking this important step toward making the group registration of updates to a news website option more accessible for news publishers, which will further align the copyright registration system with the new business and practical realities of news publishers and their readers and to encourage participation in the copyright registration system.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kupferschmid', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith Kupferschmid
CEO
Copyright Alliance
1331 F Street, NW, Suite 950
Washington, D.C. 20004

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