

# Origins and Scope of Copyright Protection

William J. Bowe
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.
310 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Chicago Bar Association 321 South Plymouth Court Chicago, Illinois



- Origins
- Subject Matter
- Formalities
- Exclusive Rights
- Infringement
- Fair Use



- Royal grants in 16<sup>th</sup> century England
  - London Stationers' Company
  - Court of Star Chamber
  - Revenue for the king
    - Author protection secondary
- 1710 Statute of Anne reform
  - Protection of authors key
  - Limited duration of right established
    - 28 years became standard



- Similar laws followed in Europe:
  - Denmark (1741)
  - France (1793)
- U.S. Constitution (1789)
  - Article 1, Section 8:
    - authorizes Congress to create a national copyright system to "promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors . . . the exclusive Right to their . . . Writings."
- 1<sup>st</sup> federal copyright statute (1790)



- What is copyright?
  - Copyright is a form of protection provided by the laws of the United States (Title 17, U.S. Code) to the authors of "<u>original works of</u> <u>authorship</u>"
- Subject matter that can be protected:
  - Intellectual works "<u>fixed in any tangible</u> medium" (Section 102)
  - Expression of work protected, <u>not</u> facts or the underlying idea, process or discovery
    - Feist Publications, Inc. v. Rural Telephone Service Co., 499 U.S. 340 (1991)

# **Subject Matter**

### **Covered Works**

- Literary works
- Musical works
- Dramatic works
- Pantomimes, choreographic works
- Pictorial, graphic or sculptural works
- Motion pictures Sound recordings
- Architectural works



# 1976 Copyright Act

- Radical departure from 1909 Act
- Registration of copyright no longer required for protection
  - Registration still required to bring suit against infringers
- Publication of work not required for statutory protection
- Copyright protection automatically arises when an original work is fixed in a tangible medium of expression



# **Notices and Treaty Protection**

- Copyright Notice
  - © 2003 Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.

- Berne Convention Implementation Act (1988)
  - Protection automatic outside the U.S.
     without further publication or registration
  - "Moral rights" protect artistic integrity

### **Formalities**

### **Duration**

- Works created <u>AFTER</u> January 1, 1978:
  - Life of author plus 70 years
  - If anonymous or "work for hire"
    - 95 years from first publication or
    - 120 years from creation, whichever expires first
  - After expiration of term, work is in the "public domain"

### **Formalities**

### **Transfers**

Assignment

License

Security interest in intellectual property



# Copyright Owner's Bundle of Exclusive Rights

- Reproduce the copyrighted work
- Prepare derivative works
- <u>Distribute</u> copies of the work to the public
- Perform the copyrighted work publicly
- **Display** the copyrighted work publicly



### **Elements of Proof**

- Ownership of a Valid Copyright
  - Original, copyrightable & compliance with statutory formalities
- Copying
  - -Access
  - Substantial Similarity
    - Atari, Inc. v. North American Philips, 672 F.2d 607, 614 (7th Cir. 1982)

## **Fair Use**

# **Balancing the Factors**

- Purpose and character of the use
  - Commercial or noncommercial use
    - criticism, comment, scholarship, research, news reporting or teaching
- Nature of the copyrighted work
  - Fact laden or creative fiction?
- Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole
  - A snippet vs. wholesale copying
    - "Heart" of the work issue (<u>Harper & Row vs. The Nation 471</u> U.S. 539 (1985))
- Effect of the use upon the potential market for the copyrighted work
  - Often considered most important factor of the four
    - But see Campbell v. Acuff-Rose Music, Inc., 510 U.S. 569 (1994)





### www.FreeRepublic.com ~ Conservative News Forum

#### Latest | Media | Politics | Congress | Chapters | Links | About | Help

#### Forum/Topics

Latest Posts Latest Articles Post Article

Topic Descriptions Activism/Chapters Business/Economy Computers/Internet Conservatism:

Constitution Crime/Corruption Culture/Society Foreign Affairs Government News/Current Events Philosophy. Politics/Elections

Miscellaneous Old Topic Files

Lateat Daata

**-1**0−

#### In the Forum

#### Welcome!

Help

Free Republic is an online gathering place for independent, grass-roots conservatism on the web. We're working to roll back decades of governmental largesse, to root out political fraud and corruption, and to champion causes which further conservatism in America. And we always have fun doing it. Hoo-yah!

#### Jump right in

Most of the visitors to the Free Republic web site are attracted to our very popular (and, warning: addictive) conservative forum which can be found by clicking here or following any of the "Forum/Topics" or "In the Forum" links to the left.

#### Meet us in D.C.



Free Republic is a co-sponsor at the CPAC 2000 Conference, January 20 - 22, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. See and meet today's great conservative leaders. See you there!











# latimes com

SEARCH

Home | Discussions | Print Edition | Archives | Site Map | Home Delivery | Advertise | Help

#### BREAKING NEWS more

- Intruder Shot in U.S. Embassy in Moscow 'Sleepwalker' Gets Life Sentence
- High Court Upholds 'Got Milk?' Campaign
- Putin Dismisses Top Yeltsin Aide Doctor: Grandma's Babies Doing Well
- Nation & World Local Politics Commentary

#### CUSTOMIZE more

Login or register for Hunter, our customizable news agent.

#### CLASSIFIEDS

- Profiles of Top Employers New & Used Car Prices &
- Specs
- . Get a Credit Report
- · Homes · Cars · Jobs · Rental · Auction · Shopping

#### CALENDAR LIVE more

- 'Hollow Lands' Takes Historical Route
- Get the Los Angeles Times Sunday Book Review
- Palm Springs Provides Easy Getaway
- Music Movies Art TV Restaurants Books

#### BUSINESS

 Reno to Discuss Plan to Boletor Efforts

Stocks

AOL, Time Warner Merging in Stock Deal

The \$166 billion deal would rank as the biggest corporate merger in U.S. history and raises the stakes in the media industry consolidation.

Stock quotes: Time Warner, AOL

#### Medicare's Future More Stable After Fraud Battle

Spending growth is at lowest level ever as a result of crackdown on deceit. If savings continue, program would stay solvent for years longer than is forecast.

#### Fewer Troops, More Missions Strain Military

Survey indicates stresses are undermining troops' confidence in leadership and stirring concern over



Monday, January 10, 2000 11:46 AM

Talks Winding Down Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright tour the Civil War battlefied at Antietam, Maryland, Sunday during a break in Israel-Syria peace talks. Formal negotiations were expected to end today with a dialogue continuing. Reuters

#### Today's Times

- Gore Campaign Has "Fighter" in Its Corner
- Wanted: Schools' Savior; Must Be Fast
- Reno to Discuss Proposals to
- Bolster War on Cyber-Crime Cultural Sensitivity on the Beat

more







See Video Debuts



## **Dealing with Online Infringers**

### Los Angeles Times v. Free Republic

54 U.S.P.Q.2d 1453 (C.D. Ca. 2000)

- Religious Technology Center v.Netcom
   923 F. Supp. 1231 (N.D. Calif. 1995)
- Harper & Row v. Nation
   471 U.S. 539 (1985)
- Hustler v. Moral Majority
   796 F. 2d 1148 (9th Cir. 1986)



## **Dealing with Online Infringers**

- Demand letter directly to infringing site
- Demand letter to Internet Service Provider
- Copyright office filing
- Digital Millennium Copyright Act prohibits trafficking in any technology that:
  - is primarily designed for circumventing a technological measure that effectively "controls access to" a copyrighted work or "protects a right of a copyright owner"
  - has only limited use other than to circumvent such technological protection measures or
  - is marketed for use in circumventing technological protection measures. 17 U.S.C. §§ 1201(a)(2); 1201(b); RealNetworks v. Streambox, 2000 WL 127311 (W.D. Wash. 2000)

### **Fair Use**

# **Parody or Infringement?**

- Parody as criticism
  - Imitation for humorous or satirical effect
  - Must be valid parody
- 1st Amendment deference
  - Public interest in social commentary
  - Goal of commercial gain may undercut Fair Use defense
- Campbell v. Acuff-Rose Music, Inc., 510 U.S. 569 (1994)



# **Parody or Infringement?**

Campbell v. Acuff-Rose Music, Inc.

- 2 Live Crew rap song "Pretty Woman" copied parts of "Oh, Pretty Woman" by **Roy Orbison**
- 2 Live Crew claimed "parody" and Fair Use
- U.S. Supreme Court reversed 6th Circuit
  - Fair Use can exist here, even if the copying was for a commercial purpose





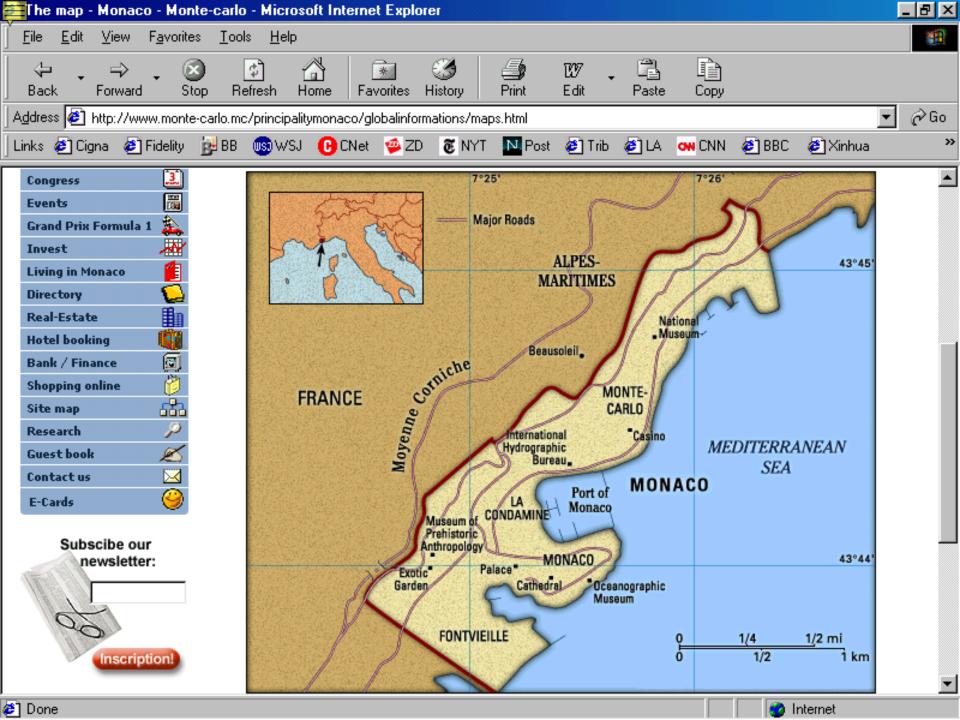






# **Effect on Market for the Original**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit erred in giving dispositive weight to the commercial goal of the parody
- Opening lyrics and bass riff may have been "heart" of original work,
  - but the more "transformative" the copying work, the less its commercialism matters
- Unlikely parody will harm market for original
  - Sun Trust Bank v. Houghton Mifflin Co., 268 F.3d
     1257 (11th Cir., 2001) (The Wind Done Gone case)

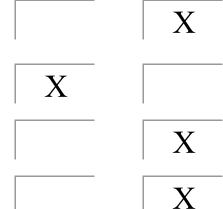


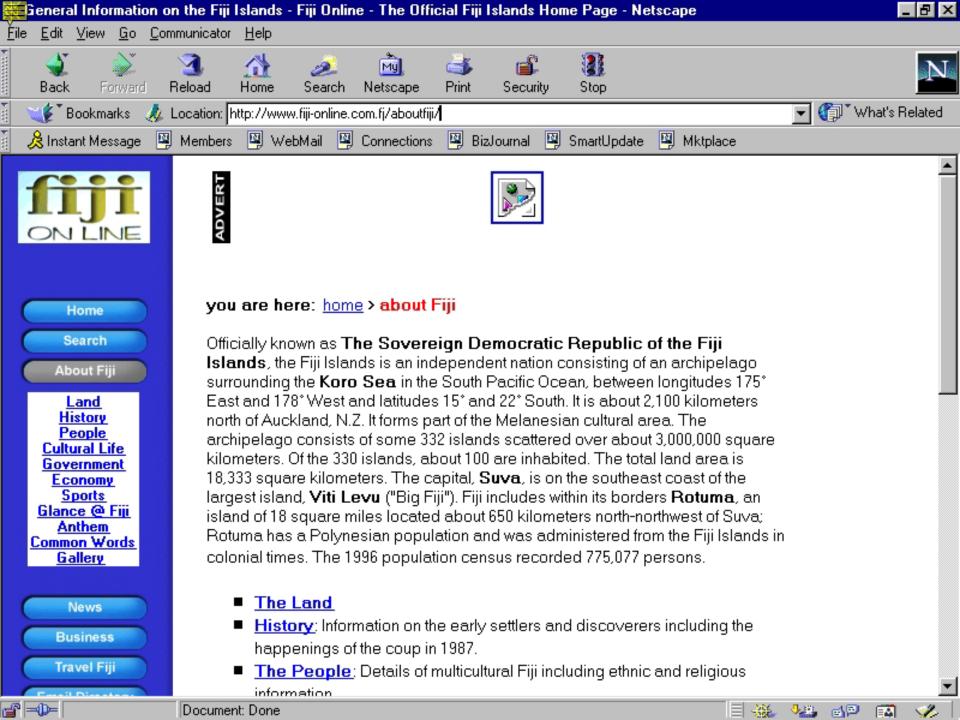
### **Fair Use**

# **Failing the Test**

**Favors Disfavors** 

Purpose and character of use
Nature of work used
Amount and substantiality of use
Economic effect of use







# Origins and Scope of Copyright Protection

William J. Bowe
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.
310 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Chicago Bar Association 321 South Plymouth Court Chicago, Illinois