

Hawley-Greg-20050314103019

To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 03/14/2005

From: Greg Hawley

Comment:

While I believe that copyrights should protect the rights of the creators of intellectual property, those rights should have specific time limitations. My wife is an English teacher who, in the past, has been responsible for her school's one-act play program. In this program, high school students perform one-act plays in competition against other local high schools. At one point during her time with this activity, she had found it difficult to get permission to put on a performance -- regrettably, I don't know which play or its playwright. One side, the rules of the activity require that performing schools have written permission to perform copyrighted works. On the other side, she could not find the publisher who owned the right to the work (the listed publisher was no longer in business and no successor could be found). Presumably, this would fall into the "orphan works" problem you are considering.