



Message from the Register

I AM PLEASED TO PRESENT this Annual Report for fiscal 2003, which highlights the Copyright Office's activities and accomplishments for the year.

During the fiscal year, the Office provided testimony to Congress on significant legislative issues, including several relating to digital technologies and the Internet, such as piracy in peer-to-peer networks, the broadcast flag proposal, and database protection. The Office also assisted in a number of copyright-related cases before the Supreme Court.

We continued to work with the Executive Branch and international organizations to strengthen copyright systems around the world, thus ensuring protection to creators and contributing to the nation's cultural and economic health. Bilateral and multilateral trade agreements have become an increasingly important part of United States trade policy. In fiscal 2003, the Office participated in the drafting of and negotiations for the intellectual property provisions of several such agreements.

The Copyright Office completed work on a new seal and logo during fiscal 2003. The new look was set for implementation on January 1, 2004.

In our main work of administering the copyright law, the Office made significant progress in recovering from the anthrax-related mail disruption of fiscal 2002. We reduced work in process and service delivery times despite the residual effects of the disruption, received and disbursed tens of millions of dollars in licensing royalties, and issued necessary regulations. We completed the bulk of our work on the second section 1201 rulemaking.

Our Reengineering Program is proceeding on pace. We spent the year setting the groundwork for fiscal 2006 implementation, preparing an organization package, completing initial space planning and design work, and awarding a contract to develop a new information technology systems infrastructure for the Office.

Our continuing progress would not be possible without the dedicated staff of the Copyright Office, whose efforts ensured the results demonstrated in this report. I extend my thanks for their achievements and public service.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marybeth Peters". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Marybeth Peters
Register of Copyrights