

March 16, 2020

RE: Librarian of Congress Seeks Public Input Regarding the Next Register of Copyrights

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) submitted the following response to Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden's request for public input on the expertise needed by the next Register of Copyrights and the top three priorities for the next Register.

Question 1: What are the knowledge, skills, and abilities you believe are the most important for the Register of Copyrights?

The Register of Copyrights has the unique responsibility to lead the U.S. Copyright Office in fulfilling its core duties of registering works and providing impartial expertise on copyright law and policy. An effective Register must not only be deeply knowledgeable about copyright law; the Register must also be an effective administrator, a strategic thinker, and a creative problem-solver. AALL believes the next Register should possess:

- demonstrated managerial experience in government or other large organizations;
- extensive knowledge and understanding of existing and emerging information technology systems;
- familiarity with the primary interests of both copyright holders and users of copyrighted works;
- experience working with both public and private sectors; and
- a commitment and willingness to engage stakeholders with diverse views in an impartial, consensus-driven way.

Question 2: What should be the top three priorities for the Register of Copyrights?

1. Continue copyright modernization efforts in coordination with the Library of Congress. This includes building the new enterprise copyright system and streamlining processes and policies.
2. Improve public access to historical copyright registration and recordation information. The Copyright Office should continue to work with the Library of Congress to facilitate access to both historical and current registration.
3. Take steps to demonstrate balance in the Copyright Office's approach to policy issues by explicitly seeking out advice from diverse groups such as consumers, libraries, and others who routinely interact with copyrighted works. This should be in addition to outreach to historically-significant copyright industries, such as book publishing and



film production. The Office should also continue to seek input from other federal agencies when appropriate.

Response submitted via <https://www.loc.gov/about/librarian-of-congress-seeks-input-on-register-of-copyrights/>