

THE ISLANDERS GUIDE TO COPYRIGHT & CONTRACT

Tim Johnson, Co-Founder
Longship Legal, LLC
tim.johnson@longshiplegal.com



LONGSHIP LEGAL



January 6, 2025



**Where does one start a
Hilton Head discussion on
Copyright?**

**With two bookkeepers
from Ohio!**



What we will cover

- 01 Tim & Longship
- 02 Writers
- 03 Intellectual Property
- 04 Copyrights
- 05 Contracts
- 06 Other Issues
- 07 Contact



Tim Johnson

Co-Founder, CEO of Longship Legal
tim.johnson@longshiplegal.com

- Strategic advisor at the intersection of business and law
- Licensed attorney in SC, VA, and at the USPTO
- Former patent examiner and naval officer
- 10 Year Hilton Head resident

Longship Legal, LLC

A business created from the ground up to have a holistic approach to serving the legal needs of companies through fixed fee legal services.

www.longshiplegal.com





Writers

An author who uses the written word as the tangible medium of expression for their original work.

Intellectual Property



Legal Regime for Intangible Assets That Protect Market Advantage

Includes: **trademarks, trade secrets, patents, copyrights**

Examples: jacket designs, domain names, mask works, hull designs, geographic indications of origin, books, music, database rights...

Copyrights



- Protect the creative works to give value to the expression of ideas.
- Legal recognition dating from the advent of the printing press, first formalized in England in the 17th century.
- Fixed creative works, such as writings, films, music, images, software, sculptures, and drawings.
- Registration system administered by the U.S. Copyright Office, which is part of the Library of Congress.

Copyrights



- Key details
 - Need to fix the expression in some tangible form
 - Created at the moment the expression is fixed
 - Can run:
 - original - the author's life, plus 70 years
 - Also, termination right. Earlier of 35 years from grant or 40 from publication.
 - anonymous, pseudonymous, work for hire - shorter of 95 years from publication or 120 years from creation
- What does federal registration get you?
 - Access to federal court
 - Monetary remedies

Copyrights



- Of interest to the Island Writers Network
 - Literary works
 - From the Copyright Office "A literary work is a work that explains, describes, or narrates a particular subject, theme, or idea through the use of narrative, descriptive, or explanatory text, rather than dialog or dramatic action. Generally, literary works are intended to be read; they are not intended to be performed before an audience."

Copyrights



- Literary works
 - Low as \$45 (current fee)
 - Deposit requirements vary on type
 - Usually processed in a matter of months
 - Submit via Electronic Copyright Office (eCO) system

War Stories

- DMCA takedown notice
- Business purchase clearance



Contracts



- Contracts are the intersection of business needs and legal rights.
- If it isn't illegal, you can probably contract for it.
- Contracts are how Copyrights are monetized.

Contracts



- The basics:
 - What is the work?
 - What rights are at play?
 - What money is involved?

Contracts



- What that looks like when the lawyers are done:
 - Grants, royalties, subsidiaries, termination, publication, reserved rights, sublicenses, indemnities, representations and warranties, appendices, assignments, governing law, etc.

Contracts



- What is *USALLY* most important:
 - **Rights**
 - **Royalties**
 - **Deadlines**
 - **Termination**

Contracts



- Recommendation:
 - Read the contract
 - Read the contract
 - Think about **WHAT YOU WANT NOW AND IN THE FUTURE**
 - Read the contract and see if it gives you what you want
 - Negotiate



Other Issues

- Estates
- Agents
- Taxes
- Enforcement

Thank You!

How to get in touch:

 tim.johnson@longshiplegal.com

 855-272-7455

 www.longshiplegal.com



LONGSHIP LEGAL

WWW.LONGSHIPLEGAL.COM