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DMCA Re-Registration Deadline is December 31, 2017



The U.S. Copyright Office has launched a new online system for managing agents designated to receive notice of online copyright violations. As a result, agent designations filed prior to December 1, 2016, will expire - and service providers will lose the safe harbor protection - unless they re-register by December 31, 2017.

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (“DMCA”) protects internet service providers from liability for monetary damages for copyright infringement on the internet by their users and

third parties – provided the service provider follows certain “notice and takedown” procedures. To receive the benefits of the “safe harbor,” the service provider must first designate with the U.S. Copyright Office an agent for receiving notice of potential copyright violations.

The meaning of “internet service provider” is broader than you might think. If your company enables or allows interactive user-posted content or communications on the Internet – be it a website, social media platform, mobile app, blog, portal, game, or other digital service – you are an internet service provider and could be liable under U.S. Copyright Law for all infringing material on your website. The “safe harbor” protects service providers from monetary damages, but only if they have a designated agent on file with the Copyright Office and follow the proper notice and take-down provisions.

On December 1, 2016, the U.S. Copyright Office launched a new online system for receiving, managing, and searching designated agents. As a result, agent designations filed prior to December 1, 2016, will expire and service providers will lose the safe harbor protection at the end of 2017.

Previously, agent designations were submitted on paper and were often incomplete, inaccurate, or out of date. Under the new system, service providers are required to register and designate an agent online and update their contact information at least every three years at the **U.S. Copyright Office**.

Service providers have until December 31, 2017, to re-register through the online system. Information about the new system can be found at the **U.S. Copyright Office website**.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



About Hartman Titus

Hartman Titus is a U.S. law firm focusing on trademark, patent, copyright and other intellectual property transactions and litigation, business matters, and general commercial litigation. The firm represents an impressive roster of U.S. and international clients, including large corporations, middle-market companies, non-profits, and small businesses. The firm has been

selected as a "Best Law Firm" by U.S. News & World Report for years 2013 through 2018. Firm attorneys also were selected as a "Best Lawyer" in each of the 2011 through 2018 editions of Best Lawyers in America and Southwest Super Lawyers. For more information, please visit our website.

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