

COPYRIGHT BASICS

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WHAT IS A COPYRIGHT?



IDEAS VS. EXPRESSIONS

- Copyright does not protect ideas
- Copyright protects expressions

WHAT IS AN “EXPRESSION”?

- “Original works of authorship” fixed in a tangible form
 - Literary works (includes computer code)
 - Musical works, including lyrics
 - Dramatic works, including music
 - Choreography
 - Visual art
 - Architecture

RIGHTS UNDER COPYRIGHT LAW

Right to:

- Copy
- Make derivative works
- Distribute
- Publicly display
- Publicly perform

OBTAINING A COPYRIGHT

It's EASY!



COPYRIGHT: OWNERSHIP

- With some exceptions, if an employee is a creator, copyright belongs to employer.
- With some exceptions, if a contractor is a creator, copyright belongs to contractor.
- Best practice as a business owner: obtain an assignment.

REGISTERING A COPYRIGHT

- Requirements: application, fee, and deposit
- Benefits:
 - Public record of claim
 - Gateway to action in court
 - Evidence of copyright validity
 - Statutory damages and attorney fees
 - Prevent importation of infringing copies

FAIR USE

- Purpose and character of the use
- Nature of the work used
- Amount and substance of the work used
- Effect on value

IDEAS FOR ENTREPRENEURS

- Added protection for logos
- White papers/reports
- Websites
- Videos
- Photography

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