

Copyright Registration Practice by James E. Hawes
Clark Boardman Callaghan, The West Group

Copyright Registration Practice is an annually updated treatise that comprehensively covers procedures associated with filing and prosecuting applications for copyright registration in the Library of Congress. Written from a practical vantage point, James Hawes has provided a profoundly useful source applicable to both experienced copyright practitioners and novices who only occasionally venture onto the copyright playing field.

The book is organized to first acquaint the reader with the nature of copyright and copyrightable subject matter. A plethora of examples and annotated footnotes are provided to assure that a strong foundation of basic principles is established. This is followed by an introduction to the workings of the U.S. Copyright Office and its official registration forms which provide the basis for copyright claimants' applications for registration. Next, consideration of each of title, authorship, creation and publication, and claimants is presented in a logical fashion so that the primary issues associated with establishing a claim to copyright become clear.

Prior to discussing each type of copyright application, in turn, the author elucidates the important issues of derivative works and compilations. Generally, an understanding of the concepts and applicability of derivative works and compilations is prerequisite to making proper entries on copyright applications. Then, the meat of the treatise is a detailed walk through of each and every copyright application form from (the common) nondramatic literary works to performing arts to visual arts to sound recordings to serial works. Special cases such as computer-related and mixed class applications are also covered. Indicative of the practical nature of Mr. Hawes' treatment of the subject matter, helpful guidelines are provided for resolving problems with copyright examiners and for securing, correcting, supplementing, and renewing copyright claims.

The remaining chapters discuss concomitant matters such as deposit and notice requirements, the panoply of rights secured by registration, international issues, and assignment and licensing considerations. For reference, the author includes a superb Appendix which presents all of the statutes which account for current copyright law (coupled with the cases enumerated in the Table of Cases), a compendium of commonly used application forms, the Copyright Office Rules of Practice, and even select Copyright Office telephone numbers.

Commensurate with the insightful and creative presentation of the comprehensive material contained in his one-volume work, Mr. Hawes provides an effective index which functions as a nifty "search engine" for delivering sought-after information every time with only minimal effort.