

Copyrights

Shartsis Frieese helps creators, businesses and technology innovators protect their original works from unauthorized use.

Protecting Creative Works and Digital Innovation

Our Copyright team combines deep industry experience with practical business insight to safeguard and commercialize creative assets across traditional and digital media.

Comprehensive Copyright Protection

Our attorneys handle all aspects of copyright registration and enforcement in the United States and coordinate international protection through foreign affiliates when needed. We assist clients in securing and enforcing copyrights for a broad range of works, including:

- Software
- Digital content
- Literature
- Photography
- Books
- Other original works of authorship

We represent individual artists, startups, publishers and large enterprises, tailoring our approach to the client's creative and commercial goals.

Licensing, Commercialization and Fair-Use Counseling

Listening closely to our clients' goals, our attorneys structure and

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negotiate copyright licenses, assignments and distribution agreements that help clients monetize their work while maintaining control over how it is used. We provide pragmatic advice on copyright ownership, derivative works and joint authorship, as well as fair-use and open-source issues that frequently arise in the digital economy.

We have particular experience advising technology companies, software developers and content creators on the interplay between copyright and contract rights, ensuring that intellectual property policies, website terms and user agreements reinforce copyright protection.

Digital Rights and DMCA Enforcement

Online platforms, social media and AI-generated content present new challenges for creators and rights holders. We counsel clients on compliance with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) and assist in implementing effective takedown and counter-notice procedures.

Our attorneys also advise on secondary liability, user-generated content and copyright issues unique to e-commerce, SaaS platforms and digital distribution. We help businesses maintain compliance while minimizing disruption to innovation and customer engagement.

Dispute Resolution and Litigation

When disputes arise, our IP litigators protect client rights in federal court and before the Copyright Office. We represent both plaintiffs and defendants in matters involving infringement, licensing disputes and claims under the DMCA. Our focus is on achieving efficient, business-oriented resolutions, through negotiation when possible and through litigation when necessary to preserve value.

Experience

- Advised an advertising agency in connection with copyright issues arising out of its adoption of generative AI tools and engagement of third-party service providers utilizing AI in creative production.
- Represented a creator of educational materials in negotiating distribution and publishing agreements to protect intellectual property rights, define revenue-sharing terms, and ensure broad dissemination of content across print and digital platforms.
- Represented individual authors in negotiating agreements with publishers, publicists, ghostwriters and other collaborators to secure

ownership and control of intellectual property, clarify authorship and credit rights, and ensure fair compensation and publishing terms.

- Advised creators on fair use rights and risk mitigation strategies for works inspired by or incorporating well-known characters and copyrighted materials, balancing creative expression with compliance under copyright and trademark law.
- Advised online technology companies on minimizing copyright infringement risk through fair use analysis, DMCA compliance, and implementation of business processes and technological measures designed to avoid infringement liability.
- Counseled content creators on developing original works of authorship inspired by existing ideas and creative works while avoiding copyright infringement, including strategies for transforming source material, documenting originality, and ensuring compliance with fair-use and derivative-works principles.
- Prepared and filed copyright applications, expedited applications, and assignments of copyrights for nonprofit organizations, authors, artists and other creators.