



The Register of Copyrights of the United States of America

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Maria A. Pallante
Acting Register of Copyrights

Maria A. Pallante was appointed Acting Register of Copyrights for the United States effective January 1, 2011. In this capacity, she directs the U.S. Copyright Office, including the copyright registration and recordation systems and domestic and international policy activities.

Pallante is on leave from the Office of the Librarian of Congress, where she is Senior Advisor to the Honorable James H. Billington. She previously held two senior positions in the U.S. Copyright Office, serving as Associate Register (policy and international affairs) and Deputy General Counsel, respectively, from January 2007 to October 2010. In these positions, she was responsible for a variety of policy, regulatory and litigation projects, working with congressional offices, executive branch agencies, copyright owners, users of copyrighted materials and representatives of the public interest and representing the United States at intergovernmental meetings and negotiations.

From 1999-2007, Pallante was intellectual property counsel and director of licensing for the worldwide Guggenheim Museums, where she advised on programmatic and business initiatives related to worldwide publishing, product development and branding; the acquisition and exhibition of contemporary art; and the operation of overseas affiliates and licensees. Earlier in her career, she was in private practice in Washington, DC and on the staff of two authors' organizations in New York, serving first as Assistant Director of the Authors Guild, Inc. and then as Executive Director of the National Writers Union, in each case working on copyright policy, transactions, litigation and freedom of expression issues.

Pallante earned her juris doctor degree from George Washington University and her bachelor's degree from Misericordia University, where she was also awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters. She has chaired and served on numerous professional committees, testified before Congress, and delivered numerous lectures and presentations in the United States and abroad.

The U.S. Copyright Office has been part of the Library of Congress since 1870. The Library is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution and the main repository of American authorship. Millions of books, songs, films and other creative works have been added to the Library's magnificent collection through the copyright registration system.