



COPYRIGHT CLAIMS BOARD

The Copyright Claims Board 101

What is the CCB?

The Copyright Claims Board, or CCB for short, is an impartial small claims forum within the U.S. Copyright Office to resolve copyright disputes involving damages of up to \$30,000. It is a valuable resource for both owners and users of copyright-protected material to resolve their disputes in a much easier and more efficient way than through federal court litigation.

Who is the CCB for?

The CCB is for creators and users of photography, music, writing, visual arts, graphic design, and more. If you work, create, or have a business in any of those areas or industries, the CCB is a forum you can use to resolve a dispute if your work is used unlawfully and without your permission or if you have been accused of infringing someone else's work.





Is the CCB a court?

The CCB is not a federal court. Use of the CCB is voluntary—no one can be forced to participate in a CCB proceeding. Parties before the CCB are called claimants and respondents. Claimants file claims with the CCB, and respondents are those who the claims are filed against. Claimants can choose to resolve a copyright dispute in federal court or before the CCB, and respondents can choose whether to participate in a CCB proceeding or opt out.

Whether you're deciding to file a claim or responding to a claim someone has filed against you, **it's important to keep in mind that CCB proceedings are much less expensive and complex than federal court.** You also do not need a lawyer to file or respond to a claim, whether you represent a business or yourself. The CCB's processes are designed to be easy to use for all parties and are conducted entirely online.

What else do I need to know about the CCB?

To bring an infringement claim before the CCB, you must have a valid copyright registration or have filed a copyright registration application for the works involved in your claim. If you bring a claim before the CCB and need to speed up the registration process, your registration application can be expedited for a fee.

How do I find more information about the CCB?

Visit ccb.gov for more info, including resources for filing and or responding to a claim as an individual or business, fees associated with filing a claim, and the CCB Handbook.