

# **The Pirate Party** **of the United States**



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For Immediate Release

## **Pirate Party of the USA announces support for Fair Use Day**

Wednesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> 2007 will be the third annual Fair Use Day worldwide. This is a day the Pirate Party of the US believes is important, as it highlights one of the most important and most misunderstood aspects of copyright law. Furthermore it is a part of the law that many, especially the big media conglomerates, would like to see eliminated entirely.

The concept of fair use is one people are mainly familiar with in practice. The ability to use a VCR comes from fair use. Quoting for use in articles and reviews is likewise fair use. However, in recently years, fair use rights have been eroded by laws such as the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. This law makes it a crime to circumvent copy protection at all, for any reason, fair use or not.

It is the reduction of the Fair Use rights that brought about Fair Use Day. It is the support we have for the rights of our fellow citizens that causes us, the Pirate Party of the United States, to stand up and applaud Eric Clifford for his attempts to bring the awareness of the rights every citizen has, to the attention of the populace.

“It is important the people are aware of what they can legally do with regards to copyrighted material,” said Pirate Party US spokesman Andrew Norton. “Very often people believe that a use of copyrighted material that would normally fall into fair use is an infringement of copyright. It is a belief that copyright holders seek to enforce, either through frivolous litigation, intimidation or legal and political maneuvering to legally restrict what can be considered fair use. This is especially true when it comes to critical reviews, or parodies.”

The Pirate Party of the US invites everyone to not only learn about their fair use laws, but on July 11<sup>th</sup>, actively put into practice, at some point, some aspect of fair use. Only through education can ignorance be eliminated, and thus allow people to fully unlock the potential of all creative works.

Some further reading about Fair Use

- [Fair Use Day](#)
- [Stanford Copyright and Fair Use Center](#)
- [US Copyright Office – Fair Use](#)
- [Copyright Management Center](#)

In addition, The Pirate Party would also like to urge people to use this day to contact their congressional representatives to express their support of the [Fair Use Bill](#), also known as the “Freedom And Innovation Revitalizing U.S. Entrepreneurship Act of 2007”. Such a law is vital to protect the lawful usage and

development of new technologies from current draconian and biased laws enacted on behalf of the copyright industry.

## **About the Pirate Party of the US**

The Pirate Party of the US was established in July 2006. The basic idea of the Pirate Party is simple - the government should encourage, rather than smother, creativity and freedom. Copyrights are now stretching into the hundreds of years, and fair use is under constant attack by attorneys who exploit the vagueness of the law. Creativity has come to a standstill in this country for those who wish to work within, and benefit from, the confines of the law. Whereas 50 years ago there was no great uproar at creative "pirating" of works without the permission of the original artist (Mickey Mouse was made as a parody, but Disney prosecutes all similar parodies of their Mickey Mouse symbol), similar legitimate creative derivative works are now smothered by the excessive terms, restrictions and punishments of our copyright system.

However, it is not just copyrights that need reform. Patents are suppressing innovation in the digital age by making it possible to monopolize methods and practices. Hundreds of thousands of patents sit on a shelf somewhere, never to be implemented, their ideas shut out from the rest of the world. That our law not only allows this, but enables this, is a travesty and a crime against innovators everywhere.

Those of us in the Pirate Party want to change that. We've chosen to adopt the Pirate name so as to pay homage to the creative artists of the past, or as they would now be known, Pirates, thieves, and copyright infringers. We do not support nor condone any unlawful distribution of copyrighted works.

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For more information, contact  
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