

Identifying Information

Name:	Skladany, Martin
School:	Penn State Dickinson Law

Paper Information

Title:	Copyright's Arc
Abstract:	<p>Copyright should follow an arc across the development spectrum: copyright's scope, depth, and length should be reduced in both developed and developing countries, where in its current form it harms or hinders the development of individuals and societies, yet it should continue in varying degrees in middle-income countries like Brazil, China, India, and Nigeria, where it can have a more positive role. In developing countries copyright should be minimized to allow for the freer flow of domestic and international artwork. Over time such broad distribution would encourage developing country citizens to deepen their commitment to liberal values, as has been documented by Emily Oster and Robert Jensen in their study on the introduction of cable TV, which brought both domestic and international artwork to Indian villages and had a rapid and robust positive influence on women's perceptions of themselves and their actions. In middle-income countries, where more individuals have the opportunity to make a living as artists and to draw fulfillment from creating, copyright can help spawn an artistic renaissance and advance development through forging a constructive national identity. Yet a society may reach a stage in the transition from middle-income to rich where copyrighted art is so successful that it turns most citizens into overly passive consumers and in effect monopolizes creativity. Hence in developed countries copyright should be minimized to reduce the amount of artwork average citizens consume in an effort to spur them to create more on their own. In this arc of three distinct phases, copyright must support the human quest for value and meaning, in which creativity plays an essential part.</p>