



March 9, 2012

Letter to the Editor
National Post
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Dear Editor:

Drew Hasselback's article in Legal Post (March 7) and Terence Corcoran's editorial (March 8) wrongly characterize the situation surrounding the Canadian Bar Association's submission to Parliament on its proposed copyright legislation as a dispute between lawyers representing "rights holders" and "rights users."

The CBA Working Group that was set up to draft a submission to Parliament included lawyers who primarily represent rights holders, lawyers who primarily represent rights users, and lawyers who are not regularly aligned with either side of this ongoing debate. The CBA's submission reflects that balance and provides both perspectives so that our legislators can understand them, and make the best policy decisions accordingly.

The CBA's National Intellectual Property Section has 3,000 members, some of whom act for rights holders, some of whom act for rights users, and some of whom act for both. While it is true that the 27 CBA members and 7 non-members who signed the letter referenced in Mr. Hasselback's article largely act for rights holders, the fact that they raised concerns reflects the vigorous discussion and debate that lawyers engage in both as part of our efforts to serve our clients and the public, and among colleagues at the bar and in the CBA.

It's this diversity of views that gives CBA submissions their balance, credibility and respect.

Yours truly,

Trinda L. Ernst, Q.C.
CBA President

Andrew Bernstein
Chair, CBA National Intellectual Property Section