



# COPYRIGHT CLAIMS BOARD

Docket number: 25-CCB-0171  
May 13, 2025

Maria Lee and Maria Lee Makeup & Hair, LLC

CLAIMANTS

v.

Renae Goodhew

RESPONDENT

## ORDER TO AMEND NONCOMPLIANT CLAIM

The Copyright Claims Board (Board) finds that your claim does not comply with the requirements of the CASE Act and related regulations. The claim cannot move forward unless it is amended.

If you wish to proceed with this claim, you must file an amended claim by **June 12, 2025**. If you do not, the Board must dismiss your claim without prejudice, although you may file again in the future before the Board or in federal court. If you file an amended claim and it is found compliant, you will be notified and directed to proceed with service. There is no additional filing fee for an amended claim. 17 U.S.C. § 1506(f)(1)(B).

To make your amended claim compliant, you must resolve the issues identified below. 37 C.F.R. § 224.1(c)(2). You may also choose to correct or edit any errors or other information in your claim before you file it again. You do not need to provide a legal argument in your claim – just a statement of facts and circumstances. Being specific in your description gives the other party and the Board more information about your claim. There is no character limit, so please be as detailed as possible.

### Copyright Ownership

Your claim provides unclear information about claimant Maria Lee Makeup & Hair, LLC's (MLM&H) status as a legal or beneficial owner of the allegedly infringed work.

To bring a copyright infringement claim before the Board, the claimant must be “the legal or beneficial owner of the exclusive right [in a copyrighted work] at the time of the infringement.” 17 U.S.C. § 1504(c)(1). A legal owner is an author of the work who owns the exclusive rights at issue or a person or entity that has received a transfer of those rights, for example, by an assignment or an exclusive license. A beneficial owner is a legal owner who has transferred the rights at issue but retains some of the advantages of ownership, such as the right to receive royalties from the use of the work.

You allege infringement of a website, [www.marialeemakeup.com](http://www.marialeemakeup.com), which you describe as: “My established SF & LA business website with original content created by me, the author.” You list claimant Maria Lee (Lee) as the author and 1-14918396121 as the service request number of a pending application to register the copyright. Copyright Office records show that the application lists Lee as the sole author and copyright claimant (owner) of the work. The application provides MLM&H's name as part of Lee's contact information, but it does not indicate

that MLM&H has any ownership of the copyright.

A claimant who is not an author or named copyright owner of the allegedly infringed work must provide some specific details or supplemental documents explaining how the claimant owns, or has an exclusive license to use, the exclusive rights at issue. The claim does not present facts that indicate that MLM&H is a proper claimant.

To correct this issue, you must include specific allegations in an amended claim about how MLM&H owns, or has an exclusive license to use, the work at issue, or you must remove MLM&H as a claimant. For example, if Lee exclusively licensed the work (or the exclusive rights at issue) to MLM&H, then MLM&H would be an appropriate claimant, and the amended claim should state that the work was exclusively licensed to MLM&H. Alternatively, if Lee is the copyright owner and has not given MLM&H exclusive rights to the work or assigned the rights to MLM&H, then the amended claim should name only Lee as a claimant and omit MLM&H from the “Claimant” section.

### **Substantial Similarity**

Your infringement claim does not include enough facts that explain the similarities between your work and the respondent’s allegedly infringing work. If it is not readily apparent from supplemental documents that are submitted with the claim, you must provide some specific allegations about how the allegedly infringing work is substantially similar to elements of your work that copyright protects. None of the similarities that you identify appear to relate to similarities in copyrightable expression.

In the “Describe the infringement” section of the claim, you state that the respondent “worked for my business from 2018 to 2021” and “started her own website in November 2023 copying my service packages, package names, services within my packages, and pricing.” You state that her website had “the exact same service packages, similar wording, and pricing as mine” when you discovered it, and it was “taken down by DMCA notice,” and “[w]hen she reactivated it, she copied the same pricing as my current pricing.”

A valid copyright only extends to copyrightable subject matter, and copyright law only protects the components of a work that are original to the author. Copyright law does not protect ideas or facts; it only protects original elements of expression. For example, a copyright can protect the content of a website, but it does not protect any facts, business operations, or procedures that are shown or described on the website. The similarity of respondent’s business services might support a claim of trademark infringement or unfair competition, but not a copyright claim that the Board could hear. Copyright also does not protect words or short phrases such as names and titles. Information about copyrightable authorship is available in Sections 302, 308, and 313 of [Chapter 300](#) of the *Compendium of U.S. Copyright Office Practices, Third Edition*, and in [Circular 33: Works Not Protected by Copyright](#).

Your claim does not provide detailed information describing how any of respondent’s website is substantially similar to protectable elements of your website. Copyright does not protect your business services, your prices, or the names of your service packages, even if they are described or shown in your website. You state that respondent’s website has included “similar wording” to your website, but general, unsupported assertions of similarity are not sufficient; your claim does not describe or show how any such similarities are expressed in either

website so that the Board and the respondent could understand the alleged similarities. In addition, you state that you have screenshots of the respondent's website, but you have not provided copies of those screenshots or screenshots of your website as supplemental documents with the claim. As a result, the claim does not provide enough information about the websites for the Board to evaluate the similarity of any copyright-protected expressive material.

When you submit an amended claim, it must include more factual allegations that support the element of substantial similarity. Please provide more details and background regarding this element in your amended claim, including a clear, detailed statement regarding which elements of your website were taken by the respondent in the allegedly infringing website, or documents that are sufficient to show the similarities, such as screenshots of both websites. If you include copies of the works at issue as supplemental documents, they must be clearly labeled and identified so they can be properly compared to each other.

More information about the elements required to assert a claim of copyright infringement is available in the [Starting an Infringement Claim](#) chapter of the CCB Handbook. The [Introduction](#) chapter of the CCB Handbook includes more information about copyright and the kinds of disputes that the Board can hear. You should only file an amended claim if you believe you actually have a claim under copyright law that can be heard by the Board.

To submit an amended claim, log into your eCCB account and take the following steps:

1. From your dashboard, click the “**Amend claim**” button and select your docket number from the dropdown list.
2. Your claim will unlock for editing. The information you originally entered will appear in the same order as in your original claim.
3. Make the necessary edits. If you have filed supplemental documents, you must re-upload any documents you wish to include in the amended claim on the “**Documentation**” page. Please include only documents directly related to your claim, and label them clearly.
4. Once you have completed your edits, continue to click through the fillable claim form until you reach the “**Review**” page. The Review page includes all the information that you have provided in the claim up to this point. Carefully double-check the information on this page. If you have any corrections, you can select “**Edit**” to revise any entries necessary. Each section of information has an “**Edit**” button, which will take you back to that section so you can make changes. After you make changes, you can click “**Save & review**” to return to the Review page. Please review your claim carefully. Once you submit your amended claim, you will be unable to edit the claim while it is in compliance review.
5. Once you have completed your review and any revisions, you must confirm that the information in your claim is accurate and truthful to the best of your knowledge. To complete the declaration, type your full name into the “**Digital signature**” box near the bottom of the “**Review filing**” page and click “**Agree & submit.**”

If you have questions, please contact [asktheboard@ccb.gov](mailto:asktheboard@ccb.gov). Include your docket number in the subject line. The Board is unable to provide legal advice. We can only provide legal information and assistance concerning Board procedures and requirements. If you would like to seek further guidance from a lawyer or a law student at reduced or no cost, please visit the [Pro Bono Assistance](#) page on ccb.gov. You may also refer to the [Compliance Review](#) chapter of the CCB Handbook for more assistance.

Copyright Claims Board