

University of Pennsylvania Law Review

FOUNDED 1852

Formerly
American Law Register

VOL. 156

JANUARY 2008

NO. 3

ARTICLES

AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF U.S. COPYRIGHT FAIR USE OPINIONS, 1978–2005

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Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 establishes the affirmative defense to copyright infringement of “fair use,” by far the most enigmatic doctrine in U.S. copyright law and by far the most important. Without it, much of our economic and communicative action would constitute copyright infringement.

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