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Help Me Help You: Copyright Infringement From A Lawyer's Perspective

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One of the most frustrating challenges I face as a trial lawyer who represents photographers in copyright disputes is having to tell a prospective client that, while her invaluable image has clearly been infringed, there is little or nothing I can do for her. The harsh reality is that we copyright attorneys who represent plaintiffs in infringement disputes must choose our cases very carefully. Understanding the way plaintiffs' attorneys evaluate cases may be very instructive to the professional photographer. The major premise is that there are no guaranteed paydays or "open-and-shut" cases with infringement. Every successful case requires the investment of time and energy, regardless of the magnitude or value of the infringement.