

**Maria A. Pallante**  
**Register of Copyrights**  
**April 2012**



Maria A. Pallante is the Register of Copyrights of the United States and Director of the U.S. Copyright Office. She was appointed on June 1, 2011 by Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. In October 2011, after several months of fact-finding with staff, government colleagues and stakeholders, she released 27 priorities and special projects designed to inform and improve the quality and efficiency of the Office and preparing it for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The duties of the Register are prescribed in the Copyright Act. Such duties include overseeing the nation's copyright registration and recordation system as well as administering and implementing (through regulations) the provisions and amendments enacted by the Congress. Ms. Pallante and the expert staff of the Office carry out a variety of domestic and international policy activities, including advising the Congress on interpretations of law and questions of policy. The Register assists and advises the work of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator in the White House and several executive branch agencies, including the Department of Justice, Department of State, and Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and Patent & Trademark Office. She and her staff meet with counterparts in foreign governments and serve on U.S. delegations and negotiating teams.

Ms. Pallante previously held two senior positions in the U.S. Copyright Office, serving as Associate Register (policy and international affairs) and Deputy General Counsel, respectively, from January 2007 to October 2010.

Ms. Pallante has worked for several nonprofit organizations as well. From 1999-2007, Ms. Pallante was counsel with the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, which operates several art museums and educational partnerships worldwide. She also worked for two authors' organizations, serving first as Assistant Director of the Authors Guild, Inc. and then as Executive Director of the National Writers Union, in each case working on copyright policy, transactions, litigation and freedom of expression issues.

She completed a clerkship in administrative law for the appellate division of the U.S. Department of Labor and worked briefly in private practice.

Ms. Pallante is a 1990 graduate of the George Washington University Law School. She earned her bachelor's degree in history from Misericordia University, where she was also awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters.