Abstract

Whether to admit the Succession of the Copyright's Blanket License after the Cancellation of Intellectual Property Trust Management

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In a case of first impression, the Korean Supreme Court pronounced a decision in the 2011da101148 case on the issue of Succession of Copyright's blanket license after the cancellation of copyright trust management. The decision is highly significant because it will serve as the main standard of judgment in similar cases hereafter.

On the issue between the author's returned property right and the right of licensee to use the work, the Court's decision overturned the appellate court's decision and declared that the copyright has priority over the right of licensee. From a logical point of view, the Court's decision is reasonable.

However, it's doubtful whether the Court's decision sufficiently considered of the concerns of the appellate court. The appellate court rendered its decision by considering the policy questions of how to vitalize the usage of works through a stable trust system and how to achieve the aim of copyright laws of cultural development. Such considerations are well founded and it's regretful that the Court didn't explicitly address these issues.

In addition, it's problematic that the Court didn't consider the issue of whether the author achieved effectiveness against third parties through the registration of the transfer of author's property right upon cancellation of trust.

On the other hand, there's considerable circumstantial evidence that the author gave an implied consent to a blanket license at the time when the trust agreement was entered into. Nevertheless, the Court overruled the implied consent argument without giving a detailed explanation.

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Ultimately, in order to reasonably resolve the legal dispute over the succession of copyright's blanket license after the cancellation of copyright trust management, it's necessary to revise the current copyright laws as follows.

- exclusive license should be admitted and the license should be effective against third parties through registration.
- 2. Trustor and trustee should have the obligation to notify each other around the time of payment of the license fee.
- 3. It's necessary to categorize the author's property license agreement, to disclose the types of agreements at the time of entering into the trust agreement, and for the author to choose the type in trust agreement.
- 4. It's important to pluralize the copyright trust management service providers.

Keywords

copyright trust, collective management of copyright, trust cancellation, blanket license, registration, effectiveness against third parties, implied consent, succession of copyright's blanket license, invasion of author's property right, compensation for damages, etc.

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