CONTEST MANAGERS PROPOSE SIMPLIFIED STANDARDS

JERSEY CITY, N.J.—Driven crazy for too long by the process of entering multiple photo contests with different submission requirements, a group of photographers and photo editors think they've come up with a way to simplify the process.

Under the direction of Pim Van Hemmen of *The Star-Ledger* (New Jersey), the group met on March 14 at the Northern Short Course (NSC) in Jersey City. In two hours, the group hammered out a set of submission standards they say should save photo contest entrants roughly 20 hours of work each year.

"We have 27 shooters and they spend most of the month of January entering contests," Van Hemmen says. "Hopefully, we'll get everybody on the same page and the next contest season will be significantly simpler."

Representatives from the NSC, Atlanta Photojournalism Seminar (APS), New Jersey Press Photographers Association (NJPPA), Boston Press Photographers Association (BPPA) and Best of Photojournalism (BOP) participated.

The proposed standards include maximum number of images per picture story (12), maximum image file size, and a coding system for identifying images by photographer and category.

If the proposed standards are adopted, photographers will be able to enter the same images in multiple contests without having to resize, rename or re-edit their entries. That could result in more entries for each contest, Van Hemmen predicts.

But widespread adoption of the standards is still a big if. The White House News Photographers Association says it may adopt some—but not all—of the standards. POYi, BOP and World Press Photo to have yet to announce their intentions, though BOP board member Joe Elbert is supportive.

"Photographers spend 2 months out of 12 getting their entries ready," he says. "If contest entries are interfering with personal time and time they should be devoting to photography, then we need to help out. It's really a good solution."

For more detailed information, contact Pim Van Hemmen at pvanhemmen@starledger.com.

—Jay DeFoore

GREENBERG WINS $400,000 JURY VERDICT

MIAMI—A federal jury has ruled against the National Geographic Society (NGS) on four counts of willful copyright infringement for unauthorized use of Jerry Greenberg's images, and awarded the photographer $400,000 in damages. It was the maximum allowable award under the law.

NGS reacted to the decision with a vow to appeal the verdict, but the publisher also said it would discontinue selling its infringing CD product, at least for now.

Certain that the fight isn't over, Greenberg is subdued about his victory. "I'm physically and mentally exhausted," he says. "This has taken five years of my life and [cost] a huge amount of money."

In December 1997, Greenberg sued NGS in Miami federal court for unauthorized use of his images on a product called *The Complete National Geographic* on CD-ROM. The CD is a compilation of back issues of *National Geographic* magazine in digital form. NGS said it didn't need permission to reproduce the printed photographs on the CD because the CD is merely a revision of its magazines.

But a federal appeals court in Atlanta ruled in 2001 that the CD is a new and separate product, not a revision, so NGS had in fact infringed Greenberg's copyrights. After the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review that ruling, the case went back to the Miami court for a trial to determine damages.

On the eve of that trial, the judge ruled that NGS faced four counts of infringement—one for each multi-image story of Greenberg's published by the magazine. (Greenberg had argued unsuccessfully for 64 counts of infringement, which represented the total number of images involved.)

During the trial, lawyers for NGS argued that the infringement wasn't willful. In fact, NGS maintains steadfastly that it didn't infringe Greenberg's copyright at all, despite the appeals court ruling.

Greenberg's lawyers presented evidence that included memos and e-mail messages from NGS editors warning their superiors that publishing the CD without permission would be ethically wrong and illegal.

NGS remained defiant after the jury delivered its verdict.

NGS spokesperson Mary Jeanne Jacobsen said that the CD-ROM "will no longer be offered for sale until specific authority is obtained from an appropriate judicial authority."

She added, "We believe that the public will be the loser, as this valuable educational archive will no longer be available to individuals, libraries and schools. We look forward to arguing the motion to set aside the verdict, which is still pending with the trial judge in Miami, and will further pursue every legal remedy available to us."

Meanwhile, other photographers suing NGS for infringement over the CD-ROM are celebrating the verdict in Greenberg's case.

"I feel good today. This is a big win," says Fred Ward, a Maryland photographer whose case is pending in New York.

EX-DITLO PARTNERS REUNITE FOR *AMERICA 24/7*

SAN FRANCISCO—Having patched up old grudges, the creators of the best-selling photo book of all time are back together to do a sequel.

Rick Smolan and David Elliot Cohen, who produced *A Day in the Life of America* in 1986 and spawned the DITLO franchise, have hired 1,000 photographers to shoot pictures during the week of May 12 to 18 for a book called *America 24/7*.

Scheduled for release in November by Dorling Kindersley (DK) Publishing, the coffee-table book