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Special Reminders

- Come to the Third Annual Pace Law School Winter Career Fair on Tuesday, March 2nd from 4-7pm in the Tudor Room and Student Lounge.
- For job postings, announcements and other important information, go to https://law-pace-cam.symplicity.com/students
- Follow us on Twitter to receive event and deadline reminders and other career related information! Go to www.twitter.com and follow @PaceLawCCD.

Join SEALS!
Want an excuse to reach out to attorneys and other figures in the sports and entertainment field? Then join the Pace Law School Sports, Entertainment and Arts Law Society (SEALS). SEALS hosts many programs throughout the year with guest speakers from the sports and entertainment industry. This is a great way to build your network! Contact: Mike Mueller, President, Josh Cohen – Vice President, or Janel Brown, Recruitment.

SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT LAW

The field of sports and entertainment law is incredibly broad, covering everything from work in the music, movie and television industries to representation of sports franchises, players and associations, publishers, artists and international and local theater and art organizations, to name just a few.

Practically speaking, lawyers working in this field of law may provide a wide range of services often relating to entertainment, contract, labor and employment and intellectual property matters. These might include handling patent or trademark registration and litigation, drafting contracts for sports figures, addressing employee benefits matters for performance locations, like Madison Square Garden, and handling recording deals. The work may be transactional, including counseling and negotiating terms and business deals, or involve litigation or alternative dispute resolution such as mediation and arbitration.

Attorneys practicing in this field often work in the private sector—in law firms or within corporate legal departments—although opportunities do exist in the public sector including at not-for-profit organizations and associations, labor organizations, and in government agencies and departments such as the US Copyright Office, the US Patent and Trademark Office, or the Federal Communications Commission.

Several Pace Law School alumni have gone into the entertainment law field. Brian Caplan ('84), for example, is the founder of the law firm Caplan and Ross, LLP in New York City, where he represents entertainment industry clients such as recording artists and producers, publishing companies, record labels, personal managers, business management, accounting firms and dealers in fine art. His matters range from disputes in entertainment, to intellectual property, and other commercial law matters. He has handled legal claims including defamation, copyright and trademark infringement, and various employment and contract related issues. See www.caplanross.com.

Many students have taken Entertainment Law with Prof. Vernon J. Brown ('96), who is also the Chairman and CEO of V. Brown & Company, Inc. (www.vbrown.com), a business and financial management services company for music and entertainment industry clients. To read a profile of Prof. Brown, (Cont’d on page 3)

RESOURCES IN SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT LAW

Sports and Entertainment Law lawyers and law firms tend to be concentrated in the industry hubs, like New York City and Los Angeles. However, wherever there are professional sports teams, movie theater companies, t.v. or radio stations or performance spaces, you will likely find lawyers that represent them in all matters from contracts to estate planning to employment litigation and everything in between.

Below is a sample of general entertainment and sports law resources, as well as local law firms, corporations, and trade associations in the entertainment, sports and arts industries.

Resource Guides
To get a better feel for some of the legal issues and the body of law related to entertainment law, see the Pace Law library research guide: http://libraryguides.law.pace.edu/copyright or the Georgetown Law Library Entertainment Research Guide at http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/entertainmentlaw.cfm. You can also view the CCD Guide to Careers in Intellectual Property available on the CCD website or in our office.

Bar Associations

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How to Break into the Field

The best way to start on your path to becoming a sports and entertainment lawyer is to hone the skills necessary for the desired position (litigation, contract negotiating, intellectual property) and get your foot in the industry door. Finding student internships and opportunities in this field can be difficult so being creative matters.

Internships or volunteer work with local or regional arts organizations are a great way for students to gain legal experience in this field of law.

Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA) in New York City, for example, provides several services to the arts community including: delivering legal services and information to members of the arts community; educating artists and arts professionals, attorneys, students and the general public about legal and business issues that affect artistic and creative endeavors; pairing artists with mediators to resolve arts-related disputes; and advocating on behalf of the arts community in matters ranging from litigation, making public statements about issue of interest to the arts community, and making recommendations about pending legislation.

Unpaid summer associate positions at VLA are available to law students from any accredited law school and, as you might imagine, are highly coveted and competitive. Visit the website for instructions on how to apply. Opportunities also exist for attorneys and recent law school graduates interested in volunteering for VLA.

Students with a background and interest in performing arts and labor law should look into a summer fellowship through The Peggy Browning Fund (www.peggybrowningfund.org). This Fund, highlighted in our January newsletter on Labor and Employment law, supports summer fellowships in labor-related organizations throughout the United States (NB: application deadline has passed for summer 2010). One organization that typically hosts a summer fellow in its New York Office is the Screen Actors Guild. You can read our profile Pace Law alumnus Imraan Farukhi’s (’09) summer position in the New York Office of the Screen Actor’s Guild (Continued on next page)

Wrestling with the Law

Joshua Cohen (’10) has always been interested in property rights, both real property and intellectual property, and came to Pace having been exposed to a variety of sports law issues through his pre-law school position as a contract administrator at ESPN, Inc. At Pace, he joined the Sports, Entertainment and Arts Law Society and now serves as its Vice President.

This past fall, Josh worked as a legal extern for World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. (WWE) in Stamford, Connecticut as part of Pace’s International Trade Externship Program. Josh worked under WWE’s Vice President of Intellectual Property within the company’s in-house legal department.

As an extern at WWE, Joshua’s work included, among other projects, researching copyright law issues including preemption and works-for-hire, summarizing trademark cases to assist the Vice President in meetings related to WWE movie titles, performing copyright and trademark searches, and assisting with the company’s anti-piracy initiative.

In addition to his prior professional corporate experience at ESPN, Josh found his intellectual property courses, including Summary of Intellectual Property and Intellectual Property Licensing Agreements, and his Entertainment Law course incredibly useful, enabling him to “hit the ground running” at his externship. He would also recommend coursework in Copyright and Trademark Law to students interested in this field.

Josh had a fantastic experience at WWE and enjoyed working at an organization within the sports entertainment industry.

As Josh commented about his experience, students seeking an internship or other practical experience in the entertainment law industry should remember that lawyers practicing in this field are just that—lawyers—and take their jobs as seriously, and are expected to behave as professionally, as lawyers working in any other industry or field of law.
How to Break Into the Field. continued

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Depending upon your particular background and interests, students hoping to pursue a career in this field of law should take advantage of the wide variety of courses related to entertainment, sports and the arts offered at Pace. Courses of interest might include the following:

Communications Law
Computer Law
Copyright Law
Employment Discrimination
Employment Law
Entertainment Law
Intellectual Property Survey
International IP
International Trade Externship
Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation
IP Agreements and Licensing
International Business Transactions

Sports Industries of the American Bar Association (ABA), for example, has divisions in Interactive Media and New Technologies, Literary Publishing, Litigation, Visual Arts, Merchandising and Licensing, Motion Pictures, Television, Cable, and Radio, Music and Personal Appearances, Sports, Theater and Performing Arts. The Forum holds an annual meeting, publishes a quarterly newsletter and sponsors a variety of educational programs and networking events.

Likewise, consider becoming involved in the New York State Bar Association’s (NYSBA) Entertainment, Art & Sports Law Section. This section coordinates an annual meeting, maintains a section website, publishes a journal and holds numerous panels, seminars, meetings and networking events.

Students should also pursue opportunities to write and publish on topics related to entertainment and sports law. Students can submit papers for publication in the bar association journals mentioned above.

In addition, the GRAMMY Foundation’s Entertainment Law Initiative sponsors an annual entertainment law essay competition. (See the The Forum section of the ABA website for details.) Winners received a cash prize and a ticket to the GRAMMY awards!

(Cont’d from page 2)

Guild (SAG) through the Peggy Browning Fund program in our January 2010 newsletter.

Students can search for law firms with entertainment and sports law practices in a particular geographic region, and of a particular size, on www.martindale.com and request an informational interview or reach out to the firm about possible summer and academic term positions.

Another way to build a resume focused on entertainment and sports law is to become involved in Entertainment and Sports law sections or committees of the American Bar Association and regional and local bar associations. The Forum on the Entertainment and
Law Firms
Most large law firms in NYC and Los Angeles have Entertainment Law departments or attorneys who bill themselves as sports or entertainment lawyers, depending upon their client base and areas of specialty. There are also boutique entertainment law firms and many small and solo practices that specialize in litigation or intellectual property. Below are a few examples.

- Gray Krauss Des Rochers LLP (www.graykrauss.com)
- John Silberman Associates PC
- The Roth Law Firm PLLC (http://rrothlaw.com)
- The Law Offices of Dennis Angel (http://www.dangelesq.com/index.html)
- Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP (http://www.manatt.com)
- Andrew Raider Wood, Esq. (www.andrewwoodlaw.com)

There are also interesting articles and resources at www.starpolish.com.

Corporations/Associations/Organizations
- World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. (www.wwe.com)
- ESPN (http://espn.go.com)
- MTV (www.mtv.com)
- Madison Square Garden (www.msg.com)
- United States Tennis Association (www.usta.com)
- National Basketball Association (www.nba.com)
- Motion Picture Association of America (www.mpaa.org)
- Screen Actors Guild (www.sag.org)
- Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (www.vlany.org)

Government
- US Copyright Office (www.copyright.gov)
- Federal Communications Commission (www.fcc.com)

Upcoming CCD & PILC Programs and Events

MONDAY, MARCH 1
PILSO Online Auction Starts
Check email for link.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2
Third Annual Winter Career Fair
4:00–7:00pm (Tudor Room and Student Lounge)

THURSDAY, MARCH 4
Summer Experience in the Courts—Judicial Internship Program Information Session
12:00–1:00 PM (A-203)

TUESDAY, MARCH 16
Evening Table
5:00–8:00pm (Outside Cafeteria)