

# SONGWRITING AND THE LAW:

What Attorneys, Songwriters, and Publishers Need to Know About the MMA

Cosponsored by the U.S. Copyright Office and the Belmont Entertainment Law Journal

SPRING 2021

February 12, 2021  
9:00 a.m.—1:15 p.m.  
via Zoom

(All Times Central)



## Introductory Panel



Moderator

**John Riley**

*(Assistant General Counsel, U.S. Copyright Office)*

John earned his LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law from The George Washington University Law School and his JD from the Penn State University, Dickinson School of Law. At the Copyright Office, John has contributed to the United States Government's briefs in the Petrella and Aereo Supreme Court cases, the Copyright Small Claims, Copyright and the Music Marketplace, Section 1201 of Title 17, and Software-Enabled Consumer Products reports, and various rulemakings. He has been recognized by the American Intellectual Property Law Association for his distinguished service and contributions in the field of intellectual property law.



Panelist

**Teri Nelson Carpenter**

*(National Chair, AIMP; President and CEO, Reel Muzik Werks)*

Ms. Carpenter is a music industry veteran. Her executive experience includes a background in performing rights management and overseeing major studio and network television music departments. Ms. Carpenters experience in creating, protecting and monetizing music copyrights is well known and has earned her the highest level of respect worldwide Ms. Carpenter is currently the President & CEO of Reel Muzik Werks, LLC. A Full Service Music Rights Management Company that specializes in Global Writer/Publisher Administration, Licensing & Clearance and Music Supervision for all Media. RMW services include management of Performance, Mechanical, Neighboring and Secondary Rights.

As the executive in charge of network television music at Fox Family Worldwide/Saban Entertainment, Ms. Carpenter was responsible for overseeing the Fox Family/Saban's global music business. Prior to that Ms. Carpenter served as a Music Administration & Production Executive at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM Studios). Before that she was the Director of Music at Academy Award Winning Indie Company, Hemdale Film Corp. Ms. Carpenter began her career at Broadcast Music Inc. in Film/TV relations. She spent much of her time at BMI working directly with composers, publishers and content creators in providing assistance with their global performing rights concerns.

Ms. Carpenter is also an in-demand speaker at conferences around the globe, including SXSW in Austin, TX; Canadian Music Week in Toronto; the AIMP Indie Music Publishing Summit in New York City; NATPE, Miami, Music biz Nashville, All About Music in Mumbai, India; Output Belfast Music Conference; IMRO's Business of Music Seminar Dublin, Ireland, AEDEM in Barcelona, Spain, MIDEM, Cannes France and Vancouver International Film Festival emphasizing her status as a key member of the international music community. She was recently tapped by the U.S. State Department to be a mentor and speaker at the Global Entrepreneur Summit in Hyderabad, India whose theme "Women First, Prosperity For All" involved women from over 160 countries.

Ms. Carpenter holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Performance & Composition from Cal State Long Beach where she graduated with honors. Her post graduate studies at UCLA were in International Business and currently she is a guest lecturer in the music department at UCLA. Ms. Carpenter is a recent two-term President of the California Copyright Conference and Finance Chair of the Board of Directors of the Copyright Alliance in Washington, D.C. Currently, Ms. Carpenter serves as a member of the Independent Publishers Advisory Counsel for the NMPA. She is also the National Chair and LA Chapter President of the Association of Independent Music Publishers and serves on the Executive Board of the International Independent Music Publishers Forum. Ms. Carpenter is a member of the Joint Project Lead at CISAC which governs all X-Industry music projects. She is also an active member of the Society Publisher Forum where she lends her experience in many groups including the A/V working groups along with serving on the Steering Committee & Working Group for CIS-Net a FastTrack / CISAC global music database project.

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## Introductory Panel (continued)



Panelist

**Sally Rose Larson**

*(Vice President of Government Relations, DiMA)*

Sally Rose Larson is Vice President, Government Relations for the Digital Media Association (DiMA), the trade organization representing the major music streaming services. Streaming is now the dominant way that fans enjoy music, with the format generating \$10.3 billion in revenue in the United States alone. Sally Rose leads DiMA's government relations and lobbying activities on a range of issues including music licensing, copyright, technological development, and piracy.

Before her time at DiMA, Sally Rose served as Deputy Chief of Staff to U.S. House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Doug Collins, where she was one of the chief architects and strategists behind the historic Music Modernization Act (MMA). Representative Collins and his office were one of the main proponents of the MMA, with their steadfast leadership and consensus-building savvy helping advance the landmark bill into law.

A veteran of Capitol Hill, Sally Rose also previously served in senior legislative positions for the House Rules and Judiciary Committees. Staff Director for a subcommittee of the House Rules Committee and as a policy advisor for the House Judiciary Committee.

Sally Rose is a native of Georgia and graduated cum laude from Georgetown University with B.A.s in Government and History.



Panelist

**Abby North**

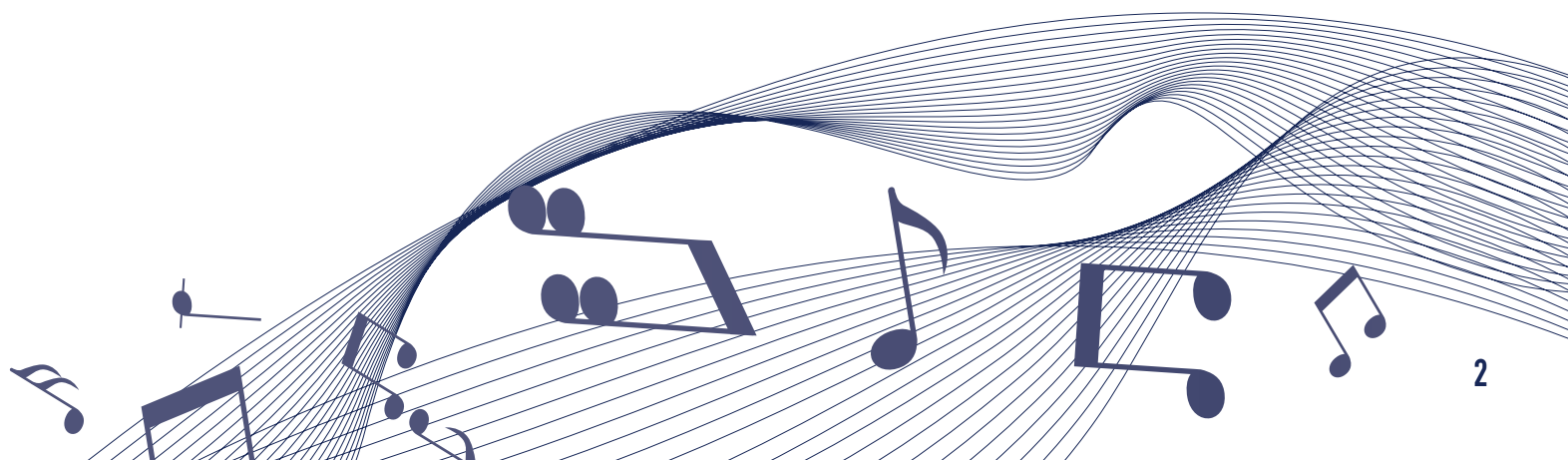
*(President, North Music Group; AIMP Board Member; SONA Advocacy and Education)*

Abby North is principal of North Music Group LLC and a founder of Unchained Melody Publishing LLC. Abby began her music career as a songwriter and composer, and launched her first production music library 15 years ago.

Abby has experience in all areas of music publishing, from creative to administrative. She has vast experience in works registration, a strong knowledge of music publishing data and databases, and a background developing royalty processing and Common Works Registration (CWR) software tools.

Abby regularly advises estates on catalog management, termination rights and strategic growth concepts.

Abby is involved in several tech-forward, cutting-edge working groups and initiatives in the music licensing and metadata areas. She consults and advises companies in the financial sector and music industries regarding these issues. Abby is a board member of the Los Angeles Chapter of the AIMP and of IAFAR US, and a member of NMPA's Team 100, the Television Academy, ISNI Music Sector Consultation Group, CISAC's CWR Working Group, Women in Music, SONA, the SCL and MMF-US (Music Managers Forum-US).



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## MLC Panel



Moderator

**Kris Ahrend**

*(CEO, The MLC)*

Kris Ahrend serves as Chief Executive Officer for The MLC, where he leads the organization's mission to ensure songwriters, composers, lyricists, and music publishers receive their mechanical royalties from streaming and download services in the U.S. accurately and on time.

Most recently, Ahrend led the development and launch of Warner Music Group's Center of Excellence for Shared Services in Nashville, where he oversaw the operations of fifteen different functional teams providing a variety of administrative, financial, and legal services to Warner Music's U.S.-based publishing teams, record labels, and corporate divisions. Prior to launching the Center of Excellence, Ahrend held a senior executive role within Warner Music, where he led a large legal, financial, and administrative shared services organization that he helped to create.

Ahrend began his career in the music industry working in the Law Department at Sony Music, where he provided legal services to all of Sony's US divisions, including its publishing company. He subsequently worked in the business and legal affairs department at Sony BMG Music Entertainment before accepting a senior executive role at Rhino Entertainment.

A graduate of Binghamton University and the Washington & Lee School of Law, Ahrend worked as a law clerk for the Western District of the Virginia District Court and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals before joining the Intellectual Property & Litigation Group of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, LLP in New York.

Ahrend is a valued member of the Nashville community. He serves on the boards of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce and the Nashville Downtown Partnership, and is a member of the Music City Music Council. A lifelong musician, Ahrend and his wife, Karen, have two children and live in Nashville.



Panelist

**Lindsey Major**

*(Head of Customer Experience, The MLC)*

Lindsey Major is the Head of Customer Experience for The Mechanical Licensing Collective (The MLC). In this role, Major is responsible for designing an effective customer experience strategy and leading a world-class customer experience team for The MLC.

Previously, Major helped respected companies such as Fairygodboss, SmileDirectClub and Lyft develop and enhance their customer experience operations, creating effective staff training programs, designing and improving processes, and building innovative support tools to improve quality interactions.

As Customer Experience Manager for SmileDirectClub, Major worked collaboratively with Marketing, Customer Care, Engineering, Finance and C-suite executives. Major also spearheaded "Voice of the Customer" research to understand and improve user sentiment and designed enhanced resolution workflows to help SmileDirectClub's customer support teams more efficiently and satisfactorily address client concerns.

At Lyft, Major served as People Team Innovation Project Manager and was later promoted to Process and Innovation Team Lead. During her tenure with the rideshare company, Major helped reduce support costs, designed an innovative support platform and spearheaded continuous improvement initiatives across lines of business. Most notably, Major helped Lyft develop a new consumer science program utilizing qualitative research methods and quantitative data to identify problems, define the process to solve for these problems, build customer-facing and internal Help articles and workflows, develop training, track impact on the customer experience and make recommendations for improvements to better serve users.

Major earned a B.A. from the University of Iowa and an MBA from Belmont University, and earned a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt from the Six Sigma Global Institute in 2018. She is an active volunteer with animal rescues in the Nashville area, including the Nashville Humane Association, and supports environmental and ocean conservation, gender equality and diversity and inclusion initiatives through volunteer events and philanthropy. She and her husband live in Nashville.

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## MLC Panel (continued)

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Panelist

**Maurice Russell**

*(Head of Rights Management, The MLC)*

Maurice Russell is founder of Media Rights Management (MRM), a music industry rights management consultancy. He currently advises the Mechanical Licensing Collective ("MLC") in its implementation of the first statutory blanket licensing system for mechanical rights in the U.S. Maurice is providing administrative and operational expertise in order to help the MLC process billions of dollars in digital music royalty payments to music publishers and songwriters globally.

Maurice has a deep background in intellectual property rights management and helps his clients manage the industry's growing licensing and data challenges. Prior to launching MRM, Maurice held senior roles in operations and strategy at the Harry Fox Agency, the nation's premiere music rights agency. At HFA, he directed the development and launch of numerous licensing and royalty solutions to transition the company to the high-volume digital music market.

Maurice has served on advisory groups at the U.S. Copyright Office and the U.S. Patent and Trade Office, and he is a long-time participant in Digital Data Exchange (DDEX), the primary data standards body serving the global digital music industry.

## Artist Focus

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Speaker

**Jenn Schott**

*(Songwriter, NSAI Treasurer)*

Born and raised in Pittsburg, Kansas, Jenn Schott was destined to have a career in music. It's in her genes. Her grandfather was a concert master violinist for the CBS orchestra including the Ed Sullivan show, her father was a university professor of woodwinds, and her mother is a flutist. After graduating with a journalism degree from the University of Missouri, Jenn made the move to Nashville to pursue a career as a songwriter.

Since then, her songs have been recorded by artists including Tim McGraw, Rascal Flatts, The Eli Young Band, Gloriana, Jana Kramer, Billy Ray Cyrus, Pam Tillis, Lonestar, Kelleigh Bannen, Francesca Battistelli, Lucy Hale, Jamie Lynn Spears, and Restless Heart. Jenn co-wrote Mickey Guyton's debut single, "Better Than You Left Me," which was named one of Billboard's 10 Best Country Songs of 2015. She also penned the title track of Tim McGraw's Grammy nominated album, "Two Lanes of Freedom," which was the namesake of McGraw's 2013 summer tour. Jenn's other past radio singles include Restless Heart's "Feel My Way To You," Katie Armiger's "Unseen," Billy Ray Cyrus' "A Good Day," and pop artist Lucy Walsh's "1882." In addition to her success in the U.S. country market, Jenn has also had songs released by top-selling artists in Canada and Australia.

Jenn is an alumna of Leadership Music and proudly sits on the board of the Nashville Songwriters Association International and a committee for the Mechanical Licensing Collective (The MLC).

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## Attorney Panel

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Moderator

**Loren Mulraine**

*(Law Professor, Belmont University College of Law)*

Loren Mulraine is a law professor, entertainment attorney, and advocate for creator's rights. As Director of Music and Entertainment Law Studies at Belmont University, his courses include Intellectual Property, Copyright, Entertainment Law, Entertainment Practice, Film & Television Transactions, Media Law, and Sports Law. His scholarship interests include the intersection of IP and social/economic justice, global IP rights, and entrepreneurship. Mr. Mulraine's transactional practice focuses on music, film and television clients and covers a full range of issues in IP, business, contracts, copyright terminations, business expansion and start-ups, and sales and purchase of publishing catalogs. His clients have included Grammy and Dove award-winners, Gold and Platinum selling artists and writers, management companies, producers, filmmakers, and indie record labels. Before joining Belmont in 2012, he served as a professor at Middle Tennessee State University, where he chaired the Department of Recording Industry and served as interim Associate Dean of the College of Mass Communication. He previously worked as a government contracts attorney with the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Mulraine is also a noted gospel artist, songwriter and producer with six solo recordings. His studio credits include performing as a vocalist on the Grammy award-winning "Tribute: The Songs of Andrae' Crouch."



Panelist

**Megan Joyce**

*(Vice President, Business and Legal Affairs, Provident Entertainment)*

Megan recently joined Nashville-based Provident Entertainment, a Sony Music Entertainment company, as its head of business and legal affairs. She has over fifteen years of music law experience, having previously held senior legal positions at Atlantic Records, Warner Music Nashville and Roc Nation. Megan began her music business career in sales and marketing at EMI Music Distribution and WEA prior to law school.

She holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology from UCLA, and a J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law. Megan is licensed to practice law in New York and New Jersey, and is a registered in-house counsel in Tennessee. She is a member of the Recording Academy and the Leadership Music Class of 2017.



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## Attorney Panel (continued)



Panelist

**Chip Petree**

*(Partner, Ritholz Levy Fields)*

Chip Petree is managing partner for the Nashville office of New York-based firm Ritholz Levy Fields, an office he opened in June 2014 after a decade heading up his own law practice, Petree Law. As a practitioner specializing in transactional work in the music and entertainment industries, Chip represents a diverse group of individuals and companies in all areas of the entertainment industry, including #1 songwriters, award-winning and chart-topping recording artists, record producers, independent music publishers, new media service providers, and on-air television talent. In addition to his own law practice, Chip also served as GM for Copyright Exchange throughout the company's 10-years as a consulting and brokerage firm specializing in the market for musical copyright catalogs. Since joining Ritholz Levy Fields, Chip has expanded his practice in the catalog market to representing buyers as well as sellers, and has been lead counsel in both capacities for 50+ catalog sales worth over \$200 million, and has established himself as a leader and authority on the catalog market.

Chip began his career as a lawyer in two boutique entertainment law practices in Nashville, and he also spent two years practicing technology law at a major international law firm in Silicon Valley. Chip has also served in the in-house legal departments at the RIAA, BMG Entertainment and CBS Cable/MTV Networks, where he was primary counsel to CMT.

Chip is a 1993 graduate of Davidson College and a 1997 graduate of the Wake Forest University School of Law. He is a member of NARAS/ The Recording Academy, Academy of Country Music, AIMP, Country Music Association, Nashville Bar Association, and Leadership Music.

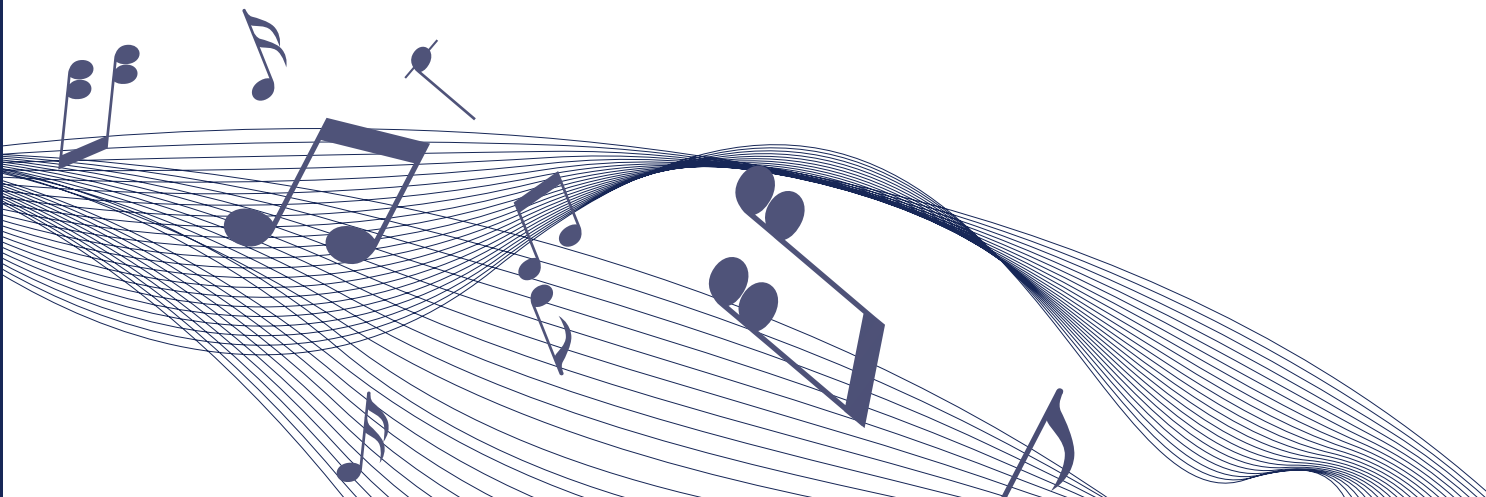


Panelist

**Rick Marshall**

*(Senior Director, Legal Affairs, Warner Music Group)*

Rick Marshall is a Nashville-based copyright and entertainment law attorney. He currently works for Warner Music Group as the Senior Director of WMG's Catalog Legal Affairs Team. Before relocating to Tennessee, Rick served for several years as an Attorney-Advisor in the Office of the General Counsel at the United States Copyright Office. While at the Office, he worked on the music-related initiatives that ultimately paved the way for the passing of the Music Modernization Act in 2018. Rick has also worked for the RIAA as a law clerk in their Business, Legal, and Legislative Affairs departments and has served as Sr. Staff Attorney to the Chief Judge at Florida's First District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee, Florida. He holds a Legal Masters degree in Intellectual Property Law from The George Washington University Law School.



# SONGWRITING AND THE LAW:

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## Keynote

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Speaker

**Regan Smith**

*(General Counsel and Associate Register of Copyrights, U.S Copyright Office)*

Regan Smith is the General Counsel and Associate Register of Copyrights for the United States Copyright Office. She was appointed to the position effective May 27, 2018.

In her position as General Counsel, Smith provides legal guidance to the various divisions and programs of the Office, including the national registration and recordation systems, and she is frequently called upon by congressional offices, the U.S. Department of Justice, and other federal agencies for advice and assistance. She also has primary responsibility for the formation and promulgation of regulations and the adoption of legal positions governing policy matters and practices of the Copyright Office.

Smith joined the Copyright Office in 2014 as assistant general counsel and advanced in 2015 to associate general counsel. She was named deputy general counsel in 2016. Before joining the Office, Smith spent several years in private practice in Chicago, where she represented a variety of clients in matters concerning copyright, technology, media, and related intellectual property issues.

Smith earned her JD from Harvard Law School, where she served on the *Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*. She earned her BA in philosophy and political science from the University of Michigan.

