

The Belmont Entertainment Law Journal Presents:

The Evolution of Entertainment



Speaker Biographies

Looking Back and Moving Forward, 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Barry Shrum

Founding Partner, Shrum Hicks & Associates

Barry Neil Shrum, Esquire has been practicing law for 25 years, starting his career as a “Philadelphia lawyer” in the litigation department of a mid-sized Center City firm and then going in-house as counsel to a Fortune 50 conglomerate, all while honing his craft for his dream of defending the rights of under-represented musicians, songwriters, and artists. In 1996, he decided to realize the dream by returning to the site of his roots, Tennessee, and starting practice in Music City.

Rush Hicks

Partner, Of Counsel, Shrum Hicks & Associates

Rush Hicks earned his undergraduate degree in music from Ole Miss. He received his law degree from Mercer University in 1981. Since that time, he has practiced law in Nashville on historic Music Row representing artists, songwriters, artist managers, business managers, record companies, record producers, booking agencies, and publishing companies. Rush has been an assistant professor of Entertainment and Music Business at Belmont University since 2005.

Molly Shehan

Partner, Milom Horsnell Crow Kelley Beckett Shehan PLC

Molly Shehan is a graduate of Belmont College of Law and received her BBA in Music from Belmont University. Her experience includes interning for the Nashville Music Council for two years, interning for Congressman Jim Cooper in Washington D.C., interning at Loeb & Loeb, LLP, and working as a research assistant for Dr. Don Cusic at Belmont University. Molly concentrates her practice in the area of entertainment and intellectual property law.

The Life of the Artists, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Rachel Guttman

Partner, Taylor Guttman, PLLC

Rachel Sime Guttman is an entertainment and music industry attorney. She provides a broad range of legal services in both transactional and litigation matters to clients involved in the creation, production, and management of creative works. She understands the special needs of the entertainment industry, including copyright law, trademarks, music publishing, record labels, media, catalog sales, and general business matters. Rachel represents recording artists, songwriters, producers, artist managers, record labels, music publishers, promoters, and more.

Stephanie Taylor

Partner, Taylor Guttman, PLLC

Stephanie Taylor is an entertainment and music industry attorney and was honored as one of Billboard's Top Music Lawyers in 2021. She provides a broad range of legal services to clients involved in the creation, production, and management of creative works. With over 20 years of experience in the entertainment industry, Stephanie understands the special needs of creative individuals and entrepreneurs. She has represented record labels, recording artists, songwriters, producers, artist managers, music publishers, concert promoters, production companies, television talent, music industry entrepreneurs, and businesses involved with the creation, use, and distribution of copyrighted works.

Jodi Marr

Instructor of Commercial Songwriting, Belmont University

Jodi Marr is an award-winning songwriter and producer who has cultivated one of the music industry's most unique, genre-defying, and cross-cultural careers. Beginning with multiple Latin-charting mega hits with artists including Ricky Martin, Alejandra Guzman, Luis Fonsi, Alih Jey, and more, she soon carved her place as an artist development specialist after discovering and collaborating with the soon-to-be global superstars MIKA and Paloma Faith. Jodi is currently an Instructor of Commercial Songwriting at Nashville's prestigious Belmont University.

Streaming, Social Media, and Synch Licensing, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Emilee Morgan

Manager of Creative Licensing, Zync Music

Emilee received a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education from Georgia State University, and a Master of Arts in Music Business from New York University. She has spent her career coordinating and licensing musical placements across various forms of media. After spending a few years working in Nashville, she returned to New York where she now provides full-service licensing. Her company specializes in synch licensing for advertising, film, television, trailers, promos, and games.

Lauren Spahn

Partner, Shackelford, Bowen, McKinley & Norton, LLP

Lauren M. Spahn represents the legal and business interests of recording artists, songwriters, publishers, promoters, producers, managers, agents, executives, major and independent record labels, musicians, television production companies, technology companies, digital media companies, start-ups, networks, banks, and other entertainment industry clients. Lauren also handles complex transactional and litigation matters related to copyright, trademark, and intellectual property law. She has experience managing international trademark portfolios and advises her clients on licensing matters and infringement claims.

Ricardo “Ricky” Hernandez

Associate, Shackelford, Bowen, McKinley & Norton, LLP

Ricky’s experience primarily lies in entertainment, intellectual property, and corporate law, with a broad knowledge in the areas of music, technology, commercial lending, mergers & acquisitions, and day-to-day corporate matters. Ricky’s broad range of experience in complex corporate and entertainment transactions provides him with the opportunity to better understand the marketplace, which in turn allows him to be the best advocate for his clients. Ricky’s practice focuses on various aspects of copyright, trademark, and intellectual property law. He has assisted clients in different industries register and protect their intellectual property and understands how important it is to stay informed on the quickly changing world of intellectual property.

Todd Mumford

Counsel, ByteDance

Todd began his career in California, where he oversaw and managed the day-to-day legal services for a variety of A-list recording artists, writers, labels, and more, negotiating and drafting volumes of entertainment industry agreements covering a variety of topics. He was the Director of Business & Legal Affairs at Myspace, advising other departments on various rights issues related to their content programming and brand integration. In 2016 Todd became the VP of Business and Legal Affairs for Roc Nation, working in every aspect of modern entertainment. Todd now serves as Counsel for ByteDance, a multinational internet tech company, and parent company to the social media powerhouse TikTok.