Mason Arts and Entertainment Advocacy Clinic – Spring 2016
Prof. Sandra Aistars
Syllabus and General Class Policies
Tuesdays 2-3:50 pm*

[note that some class sessions will require travel to D.C to meet with relevant
government agencies and legal practitioners, transportation is each student’s
responsibility]

Prof. Sandra Aistars
Room 306 and clinic office in the CPIP suite
703-993-8158
saistars@gmu.edu
Office hours by appointment

Reading Assignments
We will rely principally on the following materials to prepare for in class
discussions:

*Entertainment Law, Forms and Analysis*, Corey Field & Barry Slotnick
(please contact lHoward@alm.com to purchase a discounted e-book version)

*Compendium of US Copyright Office Practices, Third edition* (available on
www.copyright.gov)

Court orders/opinions and briefs and other working materials for various projects
will be posted to the TWEN site

Other readings may be assigned from time to time and posted on the class TWEN
site.

Written Work
The clinic is approved for three credits, including a writing credit. Your primary
writing assignment will be a draft of an amicus brief to be submitted to the 2d
Circuit. We will also be preparing a variety of outlines, client memos and other
writing assignments – all of them relatively short- in addition to any brief writing
and submissions to agencies/Congress we may undertake. You should expect to
prepare the following written work

- outlines and first drafts of briefs/submissions
- a memo conveying legal research and proposed advice for any client
counseling session
- a summary memo suggesting a DMCA enforcement plan for a new release by
Thievery Corporation and capturing the results of your efforts on their behalf
- a client memo and/or needed clearance documents for work for *The Green
Bag*
Grades will be based on the final written work product you submit for each project, as well as on effective and consistent class participation throughout the semester.

You may find the following blogs helpful in keeping up to date on newsworthy copyright topics:

- [www.copyhype.com](http://www.copyhype.com)
- [www.illusionofmore.com](http://www.illusionofmore.com)
- [www.copyrightalliance.com](http://www.copyrightalliance.com)
- [http://cpip.gmu.edu/blog/](http://cpip.gmu.edu/blog/)

**Academic Partnership with the U.S. Copyright Office**
Because the clinic qualifies for 3 credits, each student will be expected to spend 20 hours during the course of the semester researching and answering copyright questions from artists and the general public at the U.S. Copyright Office. Ideally, this time would be scheduled as regular 2 hour weekly sessions over the course of the semester.

**Class Schedule and Assignments**

1/12/16 – Review syllabus; introduction to clinical work; overview of copyright basics

**Reading:** Field/Slotnick Chapter 1: 1.01-1.03; 1.06-1.10; 1.13-1.16

1/19/16- Meeting with U.S. Copyright Office senior leadership; assignment of mentors; training session for working with the public information office of the USCO [this is an off campus meeting at the USCO]

**Reading:** students should read the briefs and opinions in TV Eyes case over the course of the next two weeks (posted to TWEN course readings section)

1/26/16- Client Interviewing skills; discussion with Jay Rosenthal, Partner Mitchell, Silberberg & Knupp, LLP (invited)

2/2/16- In class interview to assess facts/legal needs of Prof. Ross Davies with regard to pending *Green Bag* projects; students will divide into 2-3 groups and will work collaboratively to outline a plan to provide needed advice and create any needed documents.

2/9/16- Meeting with lawyers from Kirkland & Ellis LLP to discuss TV Eyes amicus briefing.

**Each team must circulate their project plan for aiding *The Green Bag* by posting to the TWEN site no later than 5pm today.**
2/16/16- Book and Magazine Publishing; meeting with Mary Rasenberger, Executive Director Authors Guild, and Jan Constantine, General Counsel Authors Guild.

Reading: Field/Slotnick Chapter 3; students will receive Authors Guild member questions in advance and conduct research needed to advise them. Please post a summary of your suggested legal advice to the author(s) you have been assigned to the TWEN site no less than 48 hours in advance of the class session. Each student will verbally present their suggested legal advice to the class and receive input from classmates and our guest speakers.

This class will be followed by a client counseling evening with Authors Guild members in order to present the advice. This session is required and makes up for cancellation of the last class of the semester.

2/23/16- Rights of Publicity and Related Rights; meeting with Jeffrey Bennett, Chief Deputy General Counsel, Government and Legal Affairs, SAG-AFTRA.

Reading: Field/Slotnick; Chapter 2, 2.05-2.07, 2.08[2]-[4]; Chapter 6, 6.01-6.04; Outlines of amicus brief sections due. Please post to TWEN by 5pm.

3/15/16- Digital Millennium Copyright Act; meet with independent film-maker Ellen Seidler via Skype to discuss practical approaches to online enforcement issues for indie artists.

Reading: Field/Slotnick Chapter 7, 7.01-7.02

3/22/16- Meeting with Thievery Corporation (Adams Morgan studio tour and discussion). After this meeting students will spend the next two weeks devising and executing a DMCA notice and takedown plan to protect against online infringement of Thievery Corporation’s work.

First draft of amicus brief sections due. Please post to TWEN by 5pm.

3/29/16- Student presentations and discussion of scope of Thievery’s problem, proposed online enforcement plans; discussion of any results thus far; discussion of what information to track and summarize for DMCA enforcement effort summary.

4/5/16- Discussion of final results of enforcement program

Memo summarizing DMCA enforcement experience due

4/12/16- wrap-up and reflections on semester [visit to White House for meeting with Daniel Marti, Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (aka the IP Czar), Executive Office of the President

4/19/16- no class.

Final drafts of amicus briefs due. Turn in final class portfolios.