Mason Arts and Entertainment Advocacy Clinic – Fall 2018
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]

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Office hours by appointment – room 318 in faculty suite

Learning Outcomes and Grades

In this course you will apply the legal knowledge and analytical skills you have acquired in law school to advocate on behalf of artists and other creators, non-profits and small businesses in the creative sector.

Our work will challenge you to demonstrate creative problem-solving, and think beyond the law (remember that we are human beings first) when interacting with clients. You will learn to counsel your clients in a fashion that is not only legally sound, but practical to their circumstances.

Because you will be representing actual clients facing real-world legal challenges, with real consequences, you will gain first hand experience practicing law professionally and according to the ethical norms expected of members of the legal profession.

Based on the workload we have lined up so far, at a minimum, you will:

- learn how to interview clients, analyze their legal concerns and counsel them verbally and in writing by conducting client intake interviews during a pop-up legal clinic we will host at the SheMakes Summit at the National Museum of Women in the Arts on Monday, September 24, and by working with me to represent clients seeking copyright advice referred to us by Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts;

- develop new verbal advocacy and drafting skills by creating and executing a legislative advocacy plan in support of legislation creating a special “small copyright claims” forum to hear infringement claims of relatively modest economic value; and
practice your interviewing skills and build on your legal research and writing skills by participating in a major research project for the U.S. Copyright Office.

Grades will be based on the final portfolio of written client work you submit, as well as on effective and consistent class participation throughout the semester.

Reading Assignments
We will rely principally on various articles, cases, background materials, filings, bill drafts, briefs and other working materials as listed in the class schedule below or emailed to you/posted to the TWEN site to prepare for in class discussions.

I recommend you consult the below additional resources as good starting points when you research and answer client questions:

*Entertainment Law, Forms and Analysis*, Corey Field & Barry Slotnick (please contact LHoward@alm.com if you would like to purchase a discounted e-book version). This volume is available in the Library in hard copy and as an e-book on the Clinic computer.

*Compendium of US Copyright Office Practices, Third Edition* (available on www.copyright.gov). Though written as a resource for U.S. Copyright Office employees on internal practices, this document is a very practical and useful guide to basic issues that come up in counseling clients on copyright issues.

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

www.copyhype.com
www.illusionofmore.com
www.copyrightalliance.com
http://cpi.gmu.edu/blog/
http://voxindie.org

Weekly Class Schedule and Assignments

****Please check the TWEN page for updates to this syllabus regularly. Due to the nature of client work, client and guest speaker availability and court/agency filing deadlines the order and timing of assignments may change. ****

08/21/18 – Introductions; review syllabus; overview of copyright basics and begin discussion of approaches to client interviewing & counseling

08/28/18 - Practice client interview skills.  
**Reading:** Client Science: Advice for Lawyers on Initial Client Interviews
[https://scholarship.law.uc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1345&context=fac_pubs](https://scholarship.law.uc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1345&context=fac_pubs)

9/11/18 - Meeting with Maggie Gladson & Vance Levy, Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts to prepare for pop up clinic; continue discussion & practice of client interviewing skills

9/18/17 - Meet with Mitch Glazier, RIAA this meeting takes place at RIAA  
**Reading:** Music Modernization Act

9/24/18 - “SheMakes Summit” Pop up Clinic with WALA 1-2 pm  Students will run an intake clinic for Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts, helping local area artists assess their legal needs and preparing referrals for assistance from WALA volunteers. **This session is mandatory and makes up for classes cancelled during Thanksgiving week.**

9/25/18 - Meeting with U.S. Copyright Office senior staff to discuss research project.  
**Reading:** TBD

10/2/18 – Meet with Maria Pallante, CEO of American Association of Publishers, and former Register of Copyrights. This meeting takes place at AAP.  
**Reading:** [https://www.copyright.gov/about/office-register/wjlta033117.pdf](https://www.copyright.gov/about/office-register/wjlta033117.pdf)  
FROM MONKEY SELFIES TO OPEN SOURCE:  
THE ESSENTIAL INTERPLAY OF CREATIVE CULTURE, TECHNOLOGY, COPYRIGHT OFFICE PRACTICE, AND THE LAW

10/9/18 - Case rounds – circulate any working documents to me and to classmates 48 hrs before class

10/16/18 - Meet with Jeffrey Bennett SAG-AFTRA; Right of Publicity, labor issues and related matters  
**Reading:** Field/Slotnick ; Chapter 2, 2.05-2.07, 2.08[2]-[4]; Chapter 6, 6.01-6.04.
10/23/18 - Meet with Barry Slotnick, this meeting takes place at Loeb & Loeb’s DC offices – Entertainment litigation

**Reading: TBD**

10/30/18 - [tentative] Second meeting with U.S. Copyright Office – each student should be prepared to report on research progress to date

11/6/18 - Meet with Troy Dow, Disney. This meeting takes place at Disney’s DC office.

**Reading: TBD**

11/13/18 - Case rounds – circulate any working documents to me and to classmates 48 hrs before class

11/20/18 - **Class cancelled for Thanksgiving**

11/27/18 - [tentative] Final meeting with USCO.

**Turn in final class portfolios by the end of finals week.**