



## News Release

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Contact: Chris Saunders  
619-961-4311  
csaunders@tjssl.edu

### Music Copyright Terminations are a Ticking-Time Bomb

*Panel Discussion at TJSL Will Explore the Impact on the Music Industry*

SAN DIEGO - "The ticking time bomb has arrived. " That's the provocative sub-title of the event at Thomas Jefferson School of Law on Saturday, October 20, "Music Copyright Terminations."

This panel discussion, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., is about the 1978 Copyright Act which provides that artists can terminate and regain copyrights assigned to record labels and music publishers 35 years after the copyright is granted. MCLE Credit is available for this conference.

This event is free and open to the public. RSVPs are required and there is a charge for MCLE credit for attorneys.

The first copyright termination court case involved composer Victor Willis, who wrote the Village People hit "YCMA." He successfully sued to terminate the copyright of the publisher. The Willis case is going to lead to a "tidal wave" of music artists seeking to terminate copyrights currently held by the record companies and producers on 1970's era recordings and published music. Willis' New York attorney Brian Caplan will make a special pre-recorded appearance at the event.

This discussion at TJSL event will explore the impact of the copyright terminations on the record labels. Is this the death knell for the labels? Or is this a new era for artist's rights? Other panelists include; David Branfman, Branfman Law Group, P.C.; Lisa Cervantes, Cervantes Entertainment Law; Valerie A. Dearth, Lapidus, Root & Sacharow, LLP; Michael Hosington, Higgs, Fletcher & Mack LLP; Donald Jasko, Digital Economics, LLC; James Leach, SESAC; Lacy J Lodes, Consor Intellectual Asset Management; Steve Marks, RIAA

"There is, to paraphrase Marx, a specter haunting the music industry--the specter of copyright terminations from pre-1978 musical works," said TJSL Entertainment Law Professor K.J. Greene, who is the main organizer of the event. "How this battle will turn out none can say, but at state is a massive trove of music with astonishing financial worth. This forum brings perspectives from leading participants from both sides of the trenches, and promises to be fascinating and contentious. It is befitting a school like TJSL, which sits on the cutting edge of intellectual property and is unique in its student-faculty-and practitioner's collaborations." The moderators will be TJSL Professors Jeff Slattery and Julie Cromer Young. The sponsors are TJSL's Entertainment Law Society and the Center for Law and Intellectual Property.

Register by October 17 at: <http://alumni.tjssl.edu/events>

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