

Young Lawyers Committee

Newsletter

ABA FORUM ON COMMUNICATIONS LAW

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From the Co-Editors of the Newsletter



Welcome



By Jacqueline Win and Eric Wong

We're honored to be co-editors of the Young Lawyers Committee Newsletter for 2018-2019. We hope you will join us at the exciting events planned for this year. Please say hi if you see us!

TOP STORIES



Making it as a Media Lawyer: Practical Advice for Pursuing a Career in Media Law

By Michael Lambert

Reviewing a news script. Protecting a journalist's source. Fighting a prior restraint. Defending the First Amendment. Being a media lawyer is not your average legal career. Media law offers an exciting, challenging, and rewarding way to practice law all while serving a higher cause — the advancement of freedom of speech and press. Making it in this highly competitive field can be challenging. Job openings within the tight-knit media bar are scarce due to high demand and changing dynamics within media. When positions are available, they attract distinguished candidates from across the country. But becoming a media lawyer is possible. There are steps you can take to improve your chances of landing a coveted media law job:

Start by networking: The path to forging a career in media law is paved by networking. Networking is an indispensable ingredient to securing your first media law job, and it is equally vital to the long-term success of a career. You should search online for media lawyers and reach out to them by phone, email, or social media. Introduce yourself, explain your interest in media law, and ask if there is a good time to discuss the attorney's work as a media lawyer. If you live near a media lawyer, invite the attorney to coffee or lunch. You can also connect with media lawyers by joining organizations such as the ABA Forum on Communications Law, the Media Law Resource Center, and local media law bar organizations and by attending conferences such as the ABA Annual Conference (held this January in Miami).

Build your resume: Besides networking, it is important to develop a record of media law experiences. Employers will demand to see a demonstrated interest in media law on your resume. During law school, that means enrolling in media, First Amendment, and intellectual property law courses, working as a research assistant for a media or IP law professor, writing scholarly articles on a media law topic, or joining a media law moot court team. The [ABA First Amendment and Media Law Diversity Moot Court Competition](#) and the [Price Media Law Moot Court Program](#) provide opportunities for teams to prepare briefs and oral arguments based on media law cases. You should also seek a summer clerkship with firms with a media law practice or an internship with an organization committed to media law, such as the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, Electronic Frontier Foundation, or Student Press Law Center.

Apply for media law jobs: The Internet is littered with media law opportunities for law students, recent graduates, and experienced lawyers. Media law job databases include [UNC Media Law And Policy](#), [Media Law Resource Center](#), [Internet Law & Policy Foundry](#), [District Daybook](#), [Golnhouse](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Attorney Jobs](#). Some of these sites exclusively feature media, IP, and Internet law positions, while others require tailored searches to find media-related openings. You can also find media law jobs through state bar associations and law school career centers. And although not directly related to media law, judicial clerkships provide a quality foundation of legal skills, particularly those intending to pursue a litigation path. Federal clerkship applications are filed using [OSCAR](#); state clerkship applications are submitted through individual courts.

Take advantage of opportunities: If you are fortunate to land a media law job, make the most of it. Many early media law jobs are limited to a semester or year, so use the temporary position as a catalyst to future opportunities. In addition to performing your expected daily tasks, exceed expectations. Go the extra mile in your work, take the initiative, and be a team player if others need help.

Remember the big picture: Like a fingerprint, the road to becoming a media lawyer is unique to each person. Some attorneys start and finish their careers as media lawyers, while others find their calling after years of practicing. Don't be discouraged if you don't immediately land a media law job. Continue to develop your legal skills while networking with media lawyers, contributing to media law organizations, and developing a demonstrated interest in media law. By following this guidance, you may soon become the newest member of the media law bar.

Editor's Note: Michael is currently an associate in the Media and First Amendment Law Group at Prince Lobel Tye LLP in Boston, MA. He was formerly a media law clerk at NBCUniversal News Group.

New Lawyer in Media Spotlight:

Christina Koningisor



Tell us a little bit about yourself; your pre-law experience/path and what you currently practice.

I graduated from Brown University in 2007 and spent four years working before starting law school. I held a number of different jobs during those four years – I worked as a paralegal for a plaintiff’s firm in South Carolina, a field organizer for Barack Obama’s 2008 presidential campaign, a Fulbright Scholar in Kuwait, and an editorial fellow at the Atlantic Magazine. I valued all of these experiences, and I always encourage students to try out a variety of jobs and career paths before committing to law school, or to any graduate school for that matter.

I currently serve as the First Amendment Fellow at the New York Times, where I work on a variety of newsroom legal issues. I assist with pre-publication review, advising on newsgathering and investigations, and libel and copyright litigation. But my central role is to help manage our access docket of FOIA and New York FOIL cases. That includes both litigating cases and advising reporters on state and federal public records requests at the administrative stages.

What is your favorite part of working in the media/entertainment sector?

I love coming to work every day and feeling like what we do here matters. There is a real sense of mission and purpose here at the Times – especially given the current political climate. I enjoy working closely with reporters and watching a story take shape. I especially enjoy seeing a story through from inception to publication. For some stories, I will advise on the language of a public records request, help negotiate with an agency for the records, and then assist with pre-publication review of the article on the back end of the process. It’s exciting to watch a story come to life that way.

What is one thing you wish you knew about this field before you started?

During law school, I was involved with a clinic that does pro bono access litigation on behalf of media organizations. So I was familiar with FOIA and other access-related issues, but much less familiar with other traditional areas of media law. When I started at

the Times, I had very little background on issues like libel and copyright. And I've found that I've really enjoyed those areas. I wish I had been exposed to a wider array of media law issues earlier in my career.

You were a recipient of the NY Times fellowship program. How did you find that opportunity and what was one great thing you learned from that experience?

I've absolutely loved the fellowship, and I would strongly encourage any young lawyer with an interest in media law to apply. We have a very small in-house legal team, and the First Amendment Fellow is an integral part of that team. The work is also so interesting and varied. I've assisted with everything from negotiating the return of 15,000 ISIS documents to the Iraqi government to helping with the prepublication review of #metoo stories. It's an incredibly exciting and rewarding job.

It's hard to pick just one great thing that I've learned this year. But one important lesson is that a successful newsroom lawyer always works as an ally to their reporters. I've learned that the job is not about eliminating risk but managing it – it's about giving our reporters an accurate sense for the potential implications of various scenarios rather than just saying no. The reporters here very much feel like David McCraw, the primary newsroom lawyer for the Times, is their ally – someone who will make their reporting efforts more successful rather than someone who will stand in their way. And that has been a powerful lesson.

Editor's Note: The NY Times Fellowship is awarded annually. The application typically opens in the Fall.



Opportunities in Media Law

Click on the hyperlinked title to take you directly to the posting.

Counsel, Litigation – NBCUniversal Media, LLC (New York, NY)

Seeking someone with at least 4 years litigation experience

Production Counsel – REVOLT Media & TV (Los Angeles, CA)

Seeking someone with up to 3 years of entertainment and transactional experience, including direct experience negotiating and drafting talent, film financing, content acquisition and distribution and other video, television and film deal

Corporate Counsel – Cox Media (Atlanta, GA)

Seeking someone with a minimum of 10 years of legal experience in advertising law areas preferred, comprised of law firm and in-house counsel experience

Technology, Media & Privacy Insurance Coverage Attorney – Clyde & Co (San Francisco, CA)

Seeking a mid- level associate with insurance coverage experience

Counsel – ABC Studios (Burbank, CA)

Seeking someone with a minimum of three (3) years of entertainment, intellectual property, corporate transactions and/or litigation experience at a law firm or major corporate or studio legal department

Counsel, Music Business Affairs – Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc. (New York, NY)

Seeking someone with approximately 4 years of relevant legal practice experience that includes law firm training and knowledge of the media and/or entertainment industries

Senior Counsel – HBO (New York, NY)

Seeking someone with a minimum of 5-8 years complex transactional experience, including experience at a law firm.

COMING UP



You're Invited!

- [November 8, 2018 at 12:00 PM](#)

Networking Lunch at NYK Jiha

Address: 16 West Street, New York, NY 10036 (Please note that it is cash only)

- [January 31 - February 2, 2019](#)

24th Annual Conference in Miami Beach, FL

- [April 7, 2019](#)

ABA/FCBA 38th Annual Representing Your Local Broadcaster

Past Fun

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Conference in Napa, California this past March! It was wonderful meeting you, and we look forward to seeing you in one of the upcoming events.



Helpful Links

- [ABA Forum on Communications Law](#)

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