From the Co-Editors of the Newsletter

By Andrew Pauwels and Brian Underwood
We’re honored to be co-editors of the Young Lawyers Committee Newsletter for 2019-2020. We hope you will join us at the exciting events planned for this year. Please say hi if you see us!

TOP STORIES

Media Lawyer Spotlight:
Kristina Groennings, Assistant General Counsel, PBS
Tell us a little bit about your path toward the law.

As an undergraduate, I majored in piano performance and history. I decided when I was in music school I wanted to go into the entertainment industry, but not as a musician. I am a trained classical pianist and I saw from my colleagues there was limited exposure for classical musicians in the industry at the time. I thought working at a record label could be a way for me to make a difference in the industry and fulfill a lifelong dream. I wanted to be like David Geffen. I even flew to Los Angeles to take a photo in front of his music studio. As a music student, I asked myself, “What is the best route to become president of a record label?” and I ended up deciding between a business degree and a law degree. I decided a law degree would give me the freedom to do both business and law and I could work my way up toward president more easily with a law degree. I viewed a law degree as a way to not limit myself in my career. I was also aware that my dream could change and I wanted a degree that could change with it. Eventually, my dream did change so I am glad I pursued a law degree.

What is your current role at PBS?

My original position at PBS was in technology operations, which primarily focuses on broadcasting matters. I had primed myself to do digital work or technology operations work by the time I came to PBS. I have a certificate of law and technology from Berkley. I also did some technology work in addition to digital work while I was at Disney. Currently, I am the lead attorney for all PBS digital matters. That includes distribution of PBS content on platforms like cable, over-the-top (OTT), which involves Roku and Apple TV apps. We’re currently working on ‘skinny bundle’ deals, which includes working with YouTube TV. I also do digital product development, which requires working with our mobile and OTT applications. Additionally, I do digital production. This involves working with the PBS Digital Studios department. The Digital Studios content is primarily on YouTube and PBS commissions work from producers and local stations to create educational content on subjects from history to science. I also develop policies for PBS. These are internal policies, primarily with member stations, involving new digital products. Another interesting aspect of my job involves developing a digital platform that allows PBS to accept donations on an online format. I have a lot on my plate but most of it is serving PBS Digital Studios. Since the time I started at PBS, Digital Studios has grown as technology has developed. It is super fun stuff though, so there are no complaints from me!

What is your favorite part about working in media law?

Not all lawyers get to see the tangible effects of what they do every day. It is meaningful to know that people subscribe to Dish or YouTube TV and are getting content because of the deals that I am a part of as a media lawyer. Particularly working for a place like PBS, which produces such enriching content and has such a great mission, I find my work rewarding when I see the effects of my work. Also, the media landscape is always changing and is fast moving, especially in the digital world. It is never boring and it keeps
Is there anything you wish you had known about media law before pursuing it as a career?

I wish that somebody had explained to me the different avenues you can pursue within media law. That’s not really something they teach you in school. You can work for a law firm that represents solely talent, producers, and writers or you can work for a law firm that does distribution deals for major media companies. There are so many different in-house possibilities and even so many different types of content to represent. There’s music, broadcasting, streaming, and even print journalism and First Amendment media issues.

In law school I think there is a big bucket of things that are called ‘media law’ but they don’t layout everything that you can do within those areas of the law. It’s important to be able to make informed choices about your career path. Had I known more about the different avenues I could have pursued within media law, I would have been more aware of the whole universe of different possibilities within the term ‘media law’ that I could have pursued.

Do you have a favorite project that you’ve worked on?

At PBS I worked on the launch of our PBSKIDS 24/7 channel. It’s carried both as a multicast channel and through online streaming. It really is available 24/7 for kids. Meaning that kids in hospitals that are waking up in the middle of the night can have PBSKIDS playing instead of something else. That project was so aligned with PBS’s mission and it was meaningful to be a part of something that does so much good for little kids. It relieves a lot of pressure off of parents too because they know there is one channel their kids can always watch.

Conferences and Workshops for Media Attorneys
By Wesley Lewis

As a young attorney, it is so important to seek out and take advantage of opportunities to get involved with the media bar. Attending conferences, speaking on panels, and participating in workshops are all great ways to increase your exposure to clients and other attorneys, develop substantive expertise, and get to know your colleagues.

Fortunately for us, there is no shortage of ways to get involved with our fantastic bar. Conferences are a great way to connect with your colleagues and stay up-to-speed on the substantive areas of law impacting media lawyers and their clients, all while knocking out those CLE requirements. Media lawyers are a collegial and close-knit bunch, and there are always upcoming events on the calendar. Here are a few to keep in mind:

- Media Law Resource Center Annual Meeting, Forum, and Dinner/PLI
- Communications Law in the Digital Age. The MLRC holds its annual
membership meeting every year in New York City—this year, on Wednesday, November 6, 2018. In conjunction with this meeting, MLRC also hosts an accompanying forum as well as a gala dinner, featuring distinguished speakers, journalists, media executives, and public officials. Many of those traveling from out of town stick around for the Practising Law Institute’s annual program, Communications Law in the Digital Age, which focuses on legal issues relating to the First Amendment, defamation, privacy, intellectual property, newsgathering, and more. The Young Lawyers Committee will be hosting its annual networking lunch on Thursday, November 7, 2018 at NYK Jiha—we hope you can join us!

- **Southwestern Law School and MLRC’s Entertainment and Media Law Conference.** Held every January in Los Angeles, MLRC and Southwestern Law school host an annual one-day conference focusing on hot topics in media and entertainment law. Recent topics of discussion have included reporting in the age of #MeToo, copyright and trademark management issues, developments in idea submission law, and issues in social media.

- **ABA Forum on Communications Law Annual Conference.** This February, the ABA Forum on Communications Law is hosting its annual Communications Law Conference in Austin, Texas. This multi-day program focuses on current hot topics in access and newsgathering, entertainment, libel and privacy, internet and social media, and other issues impacting the media. The ABA Forum on Communications Law also hosts a Media Advocacy Workshop for newer attorneys in conjunction with the conference. At this workshop, attorneys present mock oral argument, conduct a prepublication review exercise, and receive valuable feedback from media law attorneys and mentors. In addition to the extensive substantive programming, there are lots of opportunities to network and socialize with friends, colleagues, and clients (live music and BBQ, anyone?). This conference is a can’t-miss for media lawyers, so break out those cowboy boots.

- **Legal Issues Concerning Hispanic & Latin American Media.** In March, the MLRC, University of Miami School of Communication and School of Law, and the Inter-American Press Association host an annual conference in Miami focusing on legal issues that Hispanic and Latin American media companies face. Topics include cross-border content creation, newsgathering, and distribution. If you have a cross-border media practice, this conference may be a great option for you!

- **Representing Your Local Broadcaster.** Viva Las Vegas! Every April, the ABA Forum on Communications Law hosts a one-day conference in Las Vegas addressing some of the legal issues that attorneys face representing members of the local broadcast media. Recent topics include FCC regulations and enforcement, hot topics in radio, broadcast engineering, and content distribution in a multi-platform world.

- **Legal Frontiers in Digital Media.** MLRC and Berkeley Center for Law and Technology host an annual conference in May in Northern California that highlights cutting-edge issues related to the Internet, digital media, and online platforms. Recent topics include Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, digital
copyright management, data protection and the GDPR, and the Fourth Amendment in the digital age.

- **MLRC Media Law Conference and London Conference.** The MLRC’s two major media law conferences, the MLRC Media Law Conference and the MLRC London Conference, are presented in September of alternating years. The next conference takes place in Washington, D.C. in September 2020. These conferences focus on the practical aspects of media law and litigation, with a mix of plenary, break-out, and boutique sessions on a wide variety of topics impacting media lawyers.

**Who’s on the Move**

*By Sara Bell*

Congratulations to all of our YLC members who have undertaken new positions within the last year:

- Our former YLC Co-Chair, Dana Green, is now Counsel at The New York Times.
- Jeremy Kutner is now Deputy General Counsel at ProPublica.
- Michael Lambert is now an Associate at Prince Lobel.
- Leslie Minora began a clerkship with Judge Restrepo of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.
- Our YLC Co-Chair, Adrianna Rodriguez, is now Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, News at Univision Communications, Inc.
- Dayme Sanchez is now an Associate at Jones Day.
- Matthew Schafer is now Assistant General Counsel, Litigation at CBS Corporation.
- Michael Shapiro completed a clerkship at NBCUniversal News Group.
- Al-Amyn Sumar finished his First Amendment Fellowship at the New York Times and is returning to the D.C. office of Ballard Spahr.
- Lyndsey Wajert is now a Legal Fellow at the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.
- Jacqueline Win now Counsel at Postmates Inc.
Opportunities in Media Law
Click on the hyperlinked title to take you directly to the posting.

**Counsel, CNN (Atlanta, GA)**
WarnerMedia is seeking a dynamic bi-lingual (Spanish & English) speaking media content attorney with passion for journalism and new forms of storytelling for a position as Counsel to CNN.

**Counsel, NPR (Washington, D.C.)**
NPR seeks an attorney with 4 to 8 years of experience supporting FCC regulatory advocacy and compliance; reviewing, drafting, and negotiating commercial contracts; and assisting with day-to-day corporate governance.

**Director of Tulane Law First Amendment Clinic & Professor of Practice, Tulane University (New Orleans, LA)**
Tulane Law School seeks highly qualified applicants for a full-time position as Professor of the Practice of Law leading its newly created First Amendment Clinic. The position would begin during the 2020-21 academic year, starting on July 1, 2020, and would be on the non-tenured faculty track, with an initial appointment of three years.

**Media & Entertainment Litigation Associate, Ballard Spahr LLP (Los Angeles, CA)**
Ballard Spahr is seeking a mid-level associate (4-6 years) to join their litigation practice in their Los Angeles office. Ideal candidates will have experience in complex litigation, and with experience in media, entertainment and First Amendment law preferred.

**Media Litigation Associate, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP (Los Angeles, CA)**
The Los Angeles office of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP has an exciting opportunity for a junior-level associate to join its nationally recognized media practice. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of two years’ litigation experience (or a combination of clerkship and law firm experience) with a background in media law, including copyright, trademark, right of publicity, defamation, or privacy
COMING UP

You're Invited!

- **November 7, 2019**
  ABA Forum on Communications Law Young Lawyers Committee informal networking lunch.
  Reminder: The event is cash only.
  NYK Jiha
  16 West 48th Street
  New York, NY 10036

  Please RSVP to Sara Bell at sabell@pbs.org.

- **February 6-8, 2020**
  Annual Conference
  Austin, TX

Tom Gimbel, President of Austin City Limits Enterprises and General Manager of the Austin City Limits television series, will be joining us at our Young Lawyers Committee meeting this year. Now the longest-running music series in American television history on its 45th season, Austin City Limits broadcasts weekly on PBS, showcasing music legends and innovators from every genre. Austin City Limits is the only television program to receive the National Medal of Arts, the nation’s highest award for artistic excellence, a certified Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Landmark, and a rare institutional Peabody Award. The ACL Music Festival attracts top Billboard musical talent and hosts about a half-million concert-goers each year. Tom’s 25+ year music industry career has included roles at indie and major record labels and in artist management, where he guided successful campaigns for Grammy Award-winning artists such as Santana, Outkast, Pink, and Whitney Houston.

Please join us in hearing about Tom’s amazing journey from record company intern to General Manager of Austin City Limits.
Thank you to everyone who attended our event in Miami last winter. We look forward to seeing you again in Austin this February!

Helpful Links

- ABA Forum on Communications Law

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