

SOUTHWESTERN

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Excellence in Entertainment and Intellectual Property Law



1st

Entertainment and Media Law LL.M. Program in the U.S.

#1

Entertainment Law School by **LAW|STREET**

50+

Intellectual Property, Entertainment, Media & Sports Law Courses on Rotation

500+

Members of SW Law's Entertainment + IP Alumni Association

Entertainment Institute

Southwestern Law School's Biederman Institute is a leading academic center for the study of entertainment, media, the arts, and sports law. The Institute trains students to become excellent and creative lawyers through rigorous and unique courses, programs, externships, clinical experiences, and other opportunities. Working with a law student population that is more than fifty percent racially and ethnically diverse, the Institute is a pipeline to diversify the legal profession and entertainment industry. The Institute actively seeks opportunities to advance social justice. Institute professors publish in leading journals, write books, and present at conferences around the world.

Journal of International Media & Entertainment Law

The Institute publishes this scholarly journal in association with the American Bar Association's Forums on Communications Law and the Entertainment and Sports Industries. JIMEL's editorial board includes prominent legal practitioners and scholars.

Entertainment Programming

The Institute sponsors a summer study-abroad program in London, supports a cohort of student scholars, and co-sponsors an internationally recognized entertainment and media law conference. Southwestern also provides an opportunity for practitioners to audit courses including copyright, television production, and trademark law. Student organizations, including the Entertainment Law Society, also provide programming throughout the year from a recent grads panel to how to succeed in the industry.

Student Scholars

Each year, the Institute selected several outstanding students to serve as Biederman Scholars. These scholars engage in a variety of Institute initiatives including an industry mentor program, behind-the-scenes participation in Biederman Institute events and programs, and priority placement in entertainment and media company externships and law firm practica.

Externship Examples

Anonymous Content
Artist Publishing Group (APG)
California Lawyers for the Arts
CMG Worldwide
Director's Guild of America
Escape Artists
NBCUniversal
PBS, Office of General Counsel
Rhino Entertainment
SAG-AFTRA
ViacomCBS
Warner Bros.
Warner Music Group

SWLAW students learning about concentrations; Alumna Camille Vasquez with OCCDL Chair Daniel Lopez.

Professor Kevin J. Greene featured in Rolling Stone Magazine

Professor Kevin J. Greene, John J. Schumacher Chair, was the subject of a *Rolling Stone* profile in March 2022. He shares his incredible story of how a chance encounter with George Clinton, one of his musical heroes, altered the course of his career and inspired him to lead a coalition of advocates, scholars, and artists to pursue reparations in the music industry. Professor Greene is a nationally recognized entertainment and intellectual property law scholar and an expert witness consultant for copyright, trademark, publicity rights, and entertainment contract disputes.

Entertainment & the Arts Clinic

Through the Entertainment & the Arts Clinic, the Institute serves and advocates for talent, writers, composers, producers, directors, rights-holders, and others who seek legal assistance with their creative projects and affords students unique, hands-on opportunities to develop critical lawyering skills. The Clinic serves 20–25 clients each semester and has handled more than 200 matters since its 2012 inception. Most recently, clinic students helped prepare a documentary about the friendship between the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, *Mission: Joy Finding Happiness in Troubled Times*, for broadcast. The students' names appear in the end credits.

Concentration Options

- Entertainment & Media Law Concentration
- Technology Law & Entrepreneurship Concentration



Alumna Camille Vasquez Honored at O.C. Diversity Awards Gala

Southwestern Alumna Camille Vasquez, Partner at Brown Rudnick LLP, was honored as a "Top Young Diverse Lawyer" at the Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law awards gala in September 2022. Vasquez gave the keynote address and shared her experiences working as a young Latina lawyer. Vasquez shot to fame after representing actor Johnny Depp and winning the jury verdict during his defamation trial against his ex-wife, actress Amber Heard.

"A Conversation With..." Podcast

Influential entertainment, media, and sports law industry members and legal experts discuss their careers and hot-button issues in conversation-style panel discussions by Orly Ravid, Associate Dean of the Biederman Institute and an Associate Professor of Law.

Recent podcast guests have included entertainment attorneys Nina Shaw and Dina LaPolt and two theater lawyers, Emily Lawson, Associate at Lazarus & Harris LLP, and Stephen Pidcock, Senior Associate at Clintons. Lawson and Pidcock discussed their careers, the fundamentals of practicing law in the theater and live-performance industry, trends in live-stage theater productions, and negotiating agreements in this segment of the entertainment industry.

The Golden Globe Foundation generously supports Southwestern Law School's Entertainment & the Arts Legal Clinic and A Conversation With podcasts and events.