

Speaker Biographies

MICHELE ALEXANDER, ESQ.

Biography

Michele is a tax lawyer who employs her training and knowledge to help clients make the best business decisions and navigate many types of complex tax issues. During her years of practice, Michele has provided counsel in a wide range of transactions, from mergers and acquisitions, capital markets and securities offerings, to financing, joint ventures, and restructurings. In recent years, Michele's practice has evolved to include a strong focus on private equity and hedge funds and similar investment vehicles. She also has experience in, and has written extensively about, real estate investment trusts, and has advised many international clients on inbound U.S. real estate investments.

MARC JACOBSON, ESQ.

Biography

Selected by Chambers USA every year since 2005 and by Super Lawyers since 2008 as one of the top Entertainment Lawyers in NYC, Jacobson built his unique practice by focusing on his two passions: music and film.

In the music area, he represented the estates of George & Ira Gershwin, Elvis Presley and Duke Ellington and important songwriters such as Jimmy Webb, Shakira, James Brown and Holland- Dozier-Holland. He represented the digital jukebox industry in its negotiations for performing rights, as well as the Cheer and Spirit industry regarding its use of music. He handles sophisticated music publishing and recording transactions, as well as negotiations to license the use of music by non-traditional music users.

Jacobson also handles all legal aspects of filmed entertainment for a variety of films. He worked on "Conviction" with Hilary Swank and Sam Rockwell, "Texasville," with Jeff Bridges and Cybil Shepard and "All's Fair" with George Segal and Sally Kellerman, "Back in The Day," with Alec Baldwin and Anabella Sciorria, "Born to Lead: The Sal Aneuse Story," "Inversion," and others. He is or has served as Executive Producer for "Nitrous!," "Leaves of the Tree" and "Hostage." He is the Founding Chairman of the NYS Bar Association Section on Entertainment Arts & Sports Law, testified before Congress and WIPO regarding the US Digital Millennium Copyright Act, and was Adjunct Professor of Entertainment Law at Fordham University Law School, CUNY Law School and The New School. He speaks regularly at bar association and other events about issues related to his practice. He has received many awards relating to his abilities as an attorney. He is licensed to practice law in New York, California, and Florida.

TRACY GREEN LANDAUER, ESQ.

Biography

Tracy Green Landauer is a partner in the firm's New York office where she focuses her practice on Tax and Trusts & Estates counsel. She provides personal estate planning, charitable gift planning and closely-held business succession planning to a broad range of domestic and international individuals and families. Ms. Landauer also provides ongoing and special issue representation to both new and established private foundations (individual and corporate) and public charities including arts, health, educational, community, literary, research and trade organizations.

She values the long-standing relationships she has with many of her clients. Whether working with individuals in planning their estates or with the officers and directors of the non-profits she represents, she listens closely to help her clients prioritize their needs and goals in order to help them implement the best plan for their circumstances. Estate planning clients gain an understanding of the options open to them and work with Ms. Landauer to determine which steps to take first for the greatest peace of mind. Her start-up tax-exempt clients work with her to make tailored, strategic choices on issues of formation, exemption, board governance and policies, and organizational structures.

Both new and established non-profits work with Ms. Landauer to successfully navigate IRS and state reporting requirements and audits; U.S. tax compliance issues in domestic and international grant-making; unrelated business income, prohibited transactions and operational issues; and compliance with state fundraising/solicitation requirements for print and electronic media.

Ms. Landauer has authored several publications in the trusts and estates area. Thomson Reuters has included her on its annual "Super Lawyers" list in Estate & Probate Law since 2012.

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

JEREMY SHEFF, ESQ.

Biography

Professor of Law
Director, Intellectual Property Law Center, School of Law
B.A., Columbia University (summa cum laude), 1999
J.D., Harvard Law School (cum laude), 2002

Jeremy Sheff joined the faculty of St. John's University School of Law in the fall of 2008. He teaches Property, Introduction to Intellectual Property, Patent Law, Trademark Law, International Intellectual Property, and First Amendment Law. He was appointed Founding Director of the Intellectual Property Law Center in 2014.

Professor Sheff's research interests span Intellectual Property law, First Amendment law, and Internet and Cyberlaw. In particular, his research focuses on how law mediates the creation, dissemination, and use of information in social, cultural, and economic exchange. He approaches these issues from an interdisciplinary perspective, drawing on research in psychology, philosophy, economics, marketing, and political science.

Professor Sheff received his B.A., summa cum laude, from Columbia University in 1999, and his J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School in 2002. While at Harvard he was an editor and symposium chair of the Harvard Law Review. After graduation, he clerked for Hon. C. P. Sifton of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Prior to his arrival at St. John's, Professor Sheff worked as a litigator for five years at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, where his practice covered a broad variety of commercial disputes, including intellectual property litigation, antitrust litigation, contract disputes, and commercial tort claims.

FRED SIEGEL, ESQ.

Biography

Fred Siegel is the founder of Fred Siegel, CPA (est. 1997), a boutique consulting/public accounting firm specializing in key tax and business issues for independent film producers and dealing with the business of film. Primary practice areas are Consulting, Financing, Film Tax Credits, Deal Structures, Taxation. The firm is one of sixteen CPA firms qualified by the NYS Dept. of Economic Development to perform "audit" type services on NYS film tax credit applications for film production companies applying for NYS film tax credits.

Working

almost entirely with independent filmmakers and their development and production companies, film financing companies, film funds, and creative professionals, the firm offers a range of "niche" services in areas such as structuring deals and cash flows; film production tax credits and financing; tax consequences of film financing; film taxation and accounting; and performing due diligence and providing reports for film financiers and production companies in connection with "film tax credit" loans. A former jazz musician and entrepreneur, Fred is a graduate of Columbia University, (B.A. Economics, Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude), attended New York University's Stern Graduate School of Business (accounting; taxation), and began his professional career in public accounting at Coopers & Lybrand, prior to its merger with PriceWaterhouse. Fred has worked with a large range of both established and emerging independent filmmakers for over twenty-five years, including such well-known filmmakers as Christine Vachon and Killer Films ("Still Alice;" "Far From Heaven;" "Boys Don't Cry"); Debra Granik ("Winters Bone"); Paul Mezey ("Beach Rats;" "Beasts of the Southern Wild"; "Maria Full of Grace"); Chris Smith ("Fyre"; "The Yes Men"; "American Movie"); and Good Machine ("Happiness" - Todd Solondz, and "Safe" - Todd Haynes).

BARRY SKIDELSKY, ESQ.

Biography

Barry Skidelsky is the current Chair of the Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Section (EASL) of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), having previously served as chair of EASL's Television and Radio committee. He is also a member of NYSBA's House of Delegates, the association's governing body.

A Berklee trained jazz musician and former radio broadcasting executive, Barry is a NYC based attorney with strong business acumen providing legal representation, counsel, co-counsel, consulting, arbitration, mediation, and related services nationwide. He also practices before the Federal Communications Commission in Washington DC, and is former chair of the NY Chapter of the Federal Communications Bar Association (FCBA).

Having substantial experience across diverse corporate, transactional, litigation/ADR and regulatory matters, Barry has particular expertise and interests in working with other lawyers, lenders, investors, owners, operators and creators involved with entertainment, digital media, telecommunications and technology.

Barry's core legal competencies involve M&A, general corporate, commercial, finance, intellectual property, real property, employment, regulatory compliance and governance issues; and, he has a strong understanding of finance, communications and computer technologies.

His background includes successes as in-house General Counsel, corporate Secretary, and board of directors member, for several venture capital and private equity backed companies, including a competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) and an internet service provider (ISP), and he served as General Counsel for a publicly traded digital media company. He was also a broadcast station broker, FCC ownership divestiture trustee, and bankruptcy trustee.

A graduate of both the University of Vermont and Vermont Law School, Barry is also a frequent author and speaker for both legal and business audiences, has a good sense of humor, and is fluent in Spanish.

Contact Barry at 212-832-4800 or bskidelsky@mindspring.com.

STAN SOOCHER, ESQ.

Biography

Stan Soocher is the long-time Editor-in-Chief of *Entertainment Law & Finance*, and an award-winning entertainment attorney and entertainment law journalist. He is also Professor of Music & Entertainment Industry Studies at the University of Colorado's Denver Campus. Stan is author of the books *Baby You're a Rich Man: Suing the Beatles for Fun & Profit* and *They Fought the Law: Rock Music Goes to Court*, the latter which is available in an updated, expanded edition in Amazon's Kindle Store. He has spoken to the New York State Bar Association EASL Section on a number of well-received occasions.

