New York State Bar Association

Entertainment, Arts & Sports Law Section

Annual Music Business and Law Conference:

Day I of the 2026 EASL Fall Meeting

Thursday, November 5, 2026
8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

American Arbitration Association
150 East 42nd Street – 17th Fl.
New York, NY 10017

7.0 MCLE Credits | 6.0 CPE Credits
6.0 Areas of Professional Practice | 1.0 Ethics and Professionalism

This program is transitional and is suitable for all attorneys including those newly admitted.

Agenda

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	**Registration and Light Breakfast**
9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.	**Welcome and Introduction**
9:10 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	**The Basics: Music in Media** A legal deep dive into music in new media, this session examines the key business and rights issues in gaming and social media platforms. It will cover clearance workflows, licensing structures, contract provisions, ownership and revenue splits, commercial use without

permissions, and practical risk management for creators, rights holders, and producers working with music across these platforms.

Speakers:

Melissa Rassas Bortnick, Esq.
Playbook 1

Deborah Mannis-Gardner
DMG Music Clearances

Anita Sharma, Esq.
Sharma Law, PLLC

Eric Weiss, Esq.
Assoc. General Counsel-Music, at Meta

Moderator:

Joshua Weigensberg, Esq.
Pryor Cashman LLP

1.5 MCLE Credits in Areas of Professional Practice | 1.5 CPE Credits Business Law

10:40 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. **Break**

10:50 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. **Music Documentaries & Biopics: Bringing Music Stories to the Screen**

Music documentaries and biopics have become a driving force in the entertainment industry, introducing artists, movements, and defining moments in music history to new audiences while creating significant opportunities, and challenges, for rights holders, estates, artists, and producers. From securing life rights and music clearances to navigating chain of title, archival materials, and the increasing role of catalog acquisitions, bringing a music story to

the screen requires careful coordination among numerous stakeholders.

This panel will explore the legal, business, and creative considerations involved in developing and producing music documentaries and biopics. Industry professionals will discuss how these projects are sourced and assembled, the role of artists, estates, and music catalogs in shaping the narrative, and the unique issues that arise when translating musical legacies and cultural moments into compelling film and television projects.

Speakers:

Jason Boyarski, Esq.
Boyarski Fritz LLP

Deborah Mannis-Gardner
DMG Music Clearances

Natalia Nastaskin, Esq.
Chief Content Officer, Primary Wave Music Publishing LLC

Ian Wheeler
The Talk House

Moderator:

Joyce Sydnee Dollinger, Esq.
Alter Kendrick & Baron LLP

1.0 MCLE Credit in Areas of Professional Practice, 0.5 Ethics and Professionalism **|** *1.0 CPE Credit in Business Law*

11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Break**

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Collective Management in North America

This panel will address issues regarding collective management in North America. Concerns surrounding collection of income and licensing of users, allocation of income and unmatched or "black box" income, and assignments of income will be addressed.

Speakers:

Serona Elton
Head of Educational Partnerships, The MLC

Sam Mosenkis, Esq.
VP Business & Legal, ASCAP

Jennifer Mitchell
CEO Red Brick Songs Inc. & Casablanca Media Publishing; Board Member-SOCAN

Brad Prendergast, Esq.
Assistant General Counsel, Licensing & Enforcement, SoundExchange

Moderator:

Prof. Larry S. Miller
NYU Steinhardt

1.0 MCLE Credit in Areas of Professional Practice **|** *1.0 CPE Credit in Business Law*

1:10 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

Lunch and Keynote Program

Speakers:

Lucy Bridgwood, Esq.,
Deputy GC, SUNO

Paul Sinclair
Chief Music Officer, SUNO

Bill Werde
Director, Bandier Music Business Program and Publisher, Full Rate No Cap

2:20 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

A Day in the Life of a Music Business Manager and the Issues that Keep Them Up at Night

This will be a wide-ranging discussion of the most salient issues that music business managers tackle each day for the artists, songwriters and producers they represent and the best practices to help their Clients succeed.

Speakers:

Brad Atkin
Director, Citrin Cooperman
New York, NY

J. Reid Hunter
Hunter Cottingham PLLC
New York, NY

Ben Massarsky
Miller Friel PLLC
Washington, DC

Erica Rosa
Owner/Managing Director, Flood, Bumstead, McCready & McCarthy
Nashville TN

Moderator:

Chris King, CPA
Citrin Cooperman Advisors LLC
Nashville, TN

1.0 MCLE Credit in Areas of Professional Practice | 1.0 CPE Credit Specialized Knowledge

3:20 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Litigation Update on the Music Front

Cases:

- Sedlik v Von Drachenberg (Kat Von D)

- Allen v Perlmutter
- Vetter v Resnick
- Cox v Sony

Speakers:

Joshua Graubart, Esq.
Law Offices of Joshua Graubart, P.C.

Felicity Kohn, Esq.
Pryor Cashman

Lindsay Krotkin, Esq.
ArentFox Schiff LLP

Nancy E. Wolff, Esq.
Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard, LLP

Moderator:

Emily A. Poler, Esq.
Trachtman and Poler Law LLC

1.5 MCLE Credits in Areas of Professional Practice | 1.5 CPE Credit in Business Law

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Reception**