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## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Ackerson & Yann, PLLC** - Louisville, Kentucky  
Associate (2007-2020); Of Counsel (2021- )

- bar admissions:
  - Kentucky, 2007
  - U.S. District Court, Eastern & Western Districts of Kentucky, 2007
- areas of practice:
  - Trademark and Copyright; Entertainment Law; Art Law
  - Represent individuals and entities in a variety of business matters, particularly with respect to trademark, copyright, and contracts. This includes clients involved in the arts (music, film, publishing, visual arts). Recently served as co-counsel for the documentary *City of Ali* (2021); negotiated and drafted agency, production services, and distribution agreements in addition to multiple releases and licenses.
  - Have successfully prosecuted cases before the USPTO Trademark Trial and Appeal Board; negotiated licenses and secured rights to adapt published works in other media; researched, prepared, filed, and defended trademark and copyright applications; successfully recovered copyright in musical compositions from a music publisher in favor of a composer.
  - *Pro bono* work includes presentations on copyright and contracts for the Kentucky Arts Council; consultation and contract review for musicians and other individual artists; filing and maintenance of UCC documents for a nonprofit record label; meeting with individual University of Louisville law students to provide career advice, review résumés, and address writing skills.
  - Provide extensive research and drafting support for all members of the firm in business law. Draft summary judgment, appellate, and other briefs in federal and state courts. Caseload has included matters involving employment discrimination, personal injury, tax appeals, insurance defense, statutory, regulatory, and civil rules interpretation and history, intellectual property, and estate disputes.

## **PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### *Copyright & Contracts*

University of Missouri – Arts Entrepreneurship (Dec. 2020)  
Kentucky Arts Council – Creative Industry Summit Series (Nov. 2020)  
University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (Nov. 2020, 2018).

*Legal Matters for Artists*, Kentucky Arts Council (Dec. 2017).

*Music Contracts and Licensing*, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (Oct. 2017).

*Trademark and Copyright*, Campbellsville University (KY) Dept. of Art and Design (Apr. 2017).

*Commissions and Contracts*, Society of Composers Region III Conference, Marshall University (Feb. 2016).

*Contracts & Copyright*, Kentucky Arts Council, Professional Artist Workshops (Nov. 2015-16; July 2011-12).

*Contracts & Copyright*, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (Apr. 2015).

*The Basics of Copyright Law*, Oklahoma State University-Stillwater, School of Entrepreneurship and the Department of Music (Apr. 2013).

*Speaking of Music and the Counterpoint of Copyright: Addressing the Legal and Ethical Concerns in Making Oral History Available to the Public* (co-author, Libby Van Cleve, Director of Oral History of American Music at Yale University Library), 2011 DUKE L. & TECH. REV. 5.

*Composers, Sampling and Copyright: Does 'Thou Shalt Not Steal' Infringe on Creativity?*

University of Maryland-Baltimore County, LIVEWIRE Festival (Oct. 2010)

University of Pittsburgh (Feb. 2008).

University of Kentucky (Oct. 2007).

University of Iowa (Apr. 2007).

Society of Composers, Inc. Region IV Conference, Middle Tennessee State University (Oct. 2006).

*Composing With Eyes Open: A Discussion of Commissions and Contracts*, American Composers Forum, SOUNDING BOARD 1, 6-7 (Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 2010).

*Speaking of Music and the Counterpoint of Copyright: Addressing the Legal and Ethical Concerns in Making Oral History Available to the Public* (co-presentation with Libby Van Cleve, Associate Director of Oral History of American Music at the Yale University Library), Oral History Association Annual Conference, Louisville, KY (Oct. 2009).

*Register This Warning, Copyright Holders: Get Claims on File or Lose Infringement Actions on Summary Judgment*, K.B.A. PUB. BENCH & BAR (Sept. 2009).

*Music and Copyright in the Digital Age*, Iowa Composers Forum "Nuts & Bolts" Conference, Cedar Rapids, IA (May 2009).

*Dodging Left and Right: The Emerging Use of a Qualified Associational Privilege in IP Litigation*, A.B.A. SEC. PUB. INTELL. PROP. LITIG. 20/1 (Fall 2008).

*Bid Protests Under the Kentucky Model Procurement Code, Common-Law Standards and Yamaha*, A.B.A. ST. & LOC. L. NEWS 29/3 (2006) (co-author with Larry C. Ethridge).

*Chalk Talk: Entity Liability for Teacher-on-Student Sexual Harassment: Could State Law Offer Greater Protection for Some Plaintiffs?*, 35 J.L. & EDUC. 141 (2006).

Article: *Music Composition, Sound Recordings and Digital Sampling in the 21st Century: A Legislative and Legal Framework to Balance Competing Interests*, 13 UCLA ENT. L. REV. 1 (2005).

- Second Prize, 2005 SANTA CLARA COMPUTER & HIGH TECH. L.J. Comment Contest
- Samuel L. Greenbaum Writing Award, University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law (2005).

## **E D U C A T I O N**

University of Massachusetts-Amherst – Certificate in Arts Management (June 2021)

University of Louisville - Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, evening division

- JD, *cum laude* (2007)
- Greenebaum, Doll & McDonald Scholar (2005); Duncan T. Boisseau Scholarship (2004-07); Dean's Scholars Award (2003); Student Bar Association - Academic Affairs Liaison & Honor Council (2005-06)
- *Journal of Law and Education*, Editorial Staff (2005-06)
- Pirtle-Washer Oral Advocacy Competition - Semifinalist (Miller & Chevalier Awards, 2005-07); National Health Law Moot Court Team (2005-06); Pirtle-Washer Oral Advocacy Competition - Advanced Round (2004-05); Public Service Project - American Printing House for the Blind (2004-05)

Yale University - D.M.A. (1995); M.M.A. (1992) in Music Composition

- Woods Chandler Memorial Prize; Graduate Teaching Assistantship; Julia Loomis Havemeyer Scholarship

Duke University - M.A. (1989) in Music Composition

- The William Klenz Prize; Mary Duke Biddle Fellowship

Mannes School of Music, The New School - B.S. (1984) in Music Composition