

# Arts, Communications, Entertainment, and Sports Law

## Theme Introduction

By Jonathan H. Schwartz and Joseph A. Bellanca

As the outgoing and incoming chairs of the Arts, Communication, Entertainment and Sports (ACES) Section, we are honored to introduce this special themed edition of the *Michigan Bar Journal*. ACES is a diverse group with members across Michigan practicing a broad array of interesting, high-profile, and cutting-edge areas of law. Our accomplished section members frequently represent famous musicians and artists, negotiate television and movie deals, litigate intellectual property disputes, and help safeguard sensitive information online, among many other fascinating legal projects. With the aid and participation of its members, the section engages practicing attorneys and law students through in-person interactive meetings and a variety of exciting networking events and seminars throughout the year, often in collaboration with other legal organizations and State Bar sections.

Recent successful ACES events included:

- A lecture exploring legal avenues to recover artwork stolen by the Nazis during the World War II period, which led to the section's newly launched initiative to help victims of the Holocaust and their descendants (discussed in more detail in one of the articles);
- A seminar analyzing the famous 2015 “Blurred Lines” song case, which generated significant attention on the issue of copyright infringement in the music industry; and
- Discussions with preeminent legal scholars on licensing, representation of artists, blockchain basics, and internet privacy.

Section members have also participated in informative ICLE webinars and videos, most recently on data privacy in sports marketing and net neutrality.

In addition, each year, ACES honors a preeminent Michigan attorney for his or her significant contributions to the state's arts, entertainment, and sports communities with the esteemed

John L. Hensel Award. Past recipients include Hon. Gerald Rosen in recognition of the Detroit bankruptcy grand bargain that helped save the Detroit Institute of Art's world class art collection; Katy Locker, program director of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and advocate for Detroit's thriving arts community; Joe Voss, director of strategic partnerships for Creative Many Michigan, a nonprofit organization committed to advancing creative industries in Michigan; and Stuart and Maxine Frankel for their generosity and leadership in the state and national arts community for decades.

For this edition, ACES members worked hard to provide articles addressing noteworthy legal issues that fall within our section's wide and important purview. We hope you find them interesting, informative, and useful in your daily practice, and that they spur your interest in participating in section activities. We welcome you to reach out to us for more information about ACES and invite you to participate in the many exciting events and initiatives planned for the future.

On behalf of ACES, we want to thank our many devoted members whose participation, collaboration, and passion have made our section a success and an important resource for Michigan's legal and larger communities. We also send our appreciation and gratitude to the State Bar of Michigan and its leadership for the longstanding and continued support of our section. We hope you enjoy this edition of the *Bar Journal* and look forward to connecting with you in the future. ■



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