

# UpFront

By Mike Eidelbes and Samantha Meinke

## SBM Environmental Law Section Announces Winners of Essay Contest



Courtesy photo

Third-place essay contest winner Ryan Schutte receives his award from Anna Maiuri, SBM Environmental Law Section immediate past chairperson.

Katharine E. Hoeksema, a student at Vermont Law School, received a \$2,000 prize for her first-place finish in the SBM Environmental Law Section's 11th Annual Law Student Essay Contest for an essay titled "Fracking, the Mitten & the Public Trust." Second place and a \$1,000 prize went to University of Wisconsin Law School student Brian Huttenburg for his essay, "Citizen Enforcement of MS4 Permits as a Tool to Address Inadequate Stormwater Runoff Regulation." Ryan Schutte, a student at Wayne State University Law School, received third place and a \$500 prize for "The Great Lakes Compact: Assessing Conflict in the Cooperation Age."

Winning essays will be published in the *Michigan Environmental Law Journal* and posted to the section's website at <http://www.michbar.org/environmental>. The contest is open to all students enrolled in U.S. or Canadian law schools. ■

## MSU Intellectual Property Conference Touts Creative Arts as Economic Tool

More than 30 speakers from around the world converged on the Michigan State University Law College Building November 9–10 for a conference hosted by the law school's Intellectual Property, Information, and Communication Law Program.

The event, "Intellectual Property for Creative Upstarts," examined the potential for creative industries to spearhead economic and cultural development because they are hindered by fewer constraints than traditional media. As commercial enterprises, however, they are capable of more ambitious and sustained creative investments than amateurs who produce user-generated content, and their interests have been overlooked in recent debates on intellectual property and information policy.

Creative upstarts encompass a range of enterprises from independent artists and producers in developed countries to emerging content industries such as Nigeria's "Nollywood," Brazil's tecnobrega music, and Chinese digital publishing.



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Panelist Arul Scaria (left) of the Université Catholique de Louvain Centre for the Philosophy of Law in Belgium addresses attendees at the Michigan State University College of Law "Intellectual Property for Creative Upstarts" conference in East Lansing last month. Also pictured are panelist Joel Baloyi (center) of the University of South Africa School of Law and moderator Michael Epstein (right), Southwestern Law School professor and supervising editor of the school's *Journal of International Media and Entertainment Law*.

The conference was cosponsored by Copyright Alliance, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization dedicated to the value of copyright as an agent for creativity, jobs, and growth, and the Northern Kentucky University Chase

Law and Informatics Institute, which provides research regarding law, regulation, and industry practice as it is applied across complex information systems, emerging technology, and all areas of law. ■