



Entertainment & Media Law Concentration

Michael M. Epstein

Director of Entertainment and Media Law Concentration

Southwestern offers a comprehensive program of courses, clinics, and externship opportunities to advance and guide the training of J.D. students in Entertainment and Media Law.

Southwestern established the [Donald E. Biederman Entertainment and Media Law Institute](#) in 2000 to expand upon Southwestern's long history of involvement with the entertainment and media industries. With the cooperation of the Institute, Southwestern offers a rich spectrum of media and entertainment law courses and experiential learning opportunities under the direction of faculty who have tremendous practical experience in the field. Indeed, Southwestern has been recognized as one of the top ten law schools in the country for entertainment law by The Hollywood Reporter and as the top law school for entertainment law by lawstreetmedia.com, among other honors.

Eligibility

To receive optimal advising, students are expected to register for the Concentration at the end of their first year (end of the third semester for part-time students), or as soon as possible thereafter. The Biederman Entertainment and Media Law Institute will provide a mandatory orientation for students in the Concentration, offering guidance to students about entertainment and media courses, externships, and work experiences. To register for the Concentration, students must be in good academic standing.

A student who completes the Concentration program with at least 10 graded units of Core and Elective courses and graduates with a Concentration grade point average of 3.33 or higher will receive the following designation on the student's transcript: "Concentration in Entertainment and Media Law with Honors." A student's Concentration grade point average will be calculated at the time of the student's graduation, and every graded course a student has taken on the list of core and elective courses below will be included in the Concentration grade point average and weighted in accordance with the number of units of that course.

Students interested in obtaining the J.D. Concentration in Entertainment and Media Law should complete the form, "Declaration of Intention to Fulfill the J.D. Concentration in Entertainment and Media Law," and submit the form to the Registration and Academic Records Office.

Curricular Requirements

To obtain a J.D. Concentration in Entertainment and Media Law, students must take at least 15 units of Core and Elective Courses from the list below. All students must register for the concentration.

Not all courses listed below are offered every year, and students must meet all course prerequisites and requirements. This Concentration does not change any course prerequisites. Every Southwestern J.D. student is currently required to take various courses related to entertainment and media law (such as Contracts, for example) so those required courses are not included in the concentration-related courses listed below.

1. Core Courses

A. Foundational Courses: All students must take Copyright Law (3 units). In addition, students must take at least one of the following additional Foundational Courses:

Entertainment Law (3 units)
Mass Media Law (2 units)
Trademark Law (2 units)

B. Externship Courses: Students must take at least one externship in entertainment or media law for at least three units. Entertainment/media externships generally consist of 2-5 units per instance, and include placements at law firms, content producers, content distributors, unions, talent agencies, and management companies.

C. Clinic or Skills Courses: Students must take at least one course and at least two units total from the following courses:

Amicus Project Practicum (only related to entertainment or media law) (2 units)
Drafting Entertainment Industry Contracts (2 units)
Entertainment & the Arts Legal Clinic I & II (3 units for each course)
Entertainment Business Affairs Negotiation (2 units)
Intellectual Property Licensing: Law & Practice (3 units)
Negotiating and Drafting International Entertainment Contracts (3 units)
Negotiation Honors Program (maximum of 3 units earned for participation)
Video Game Agreements (2 units)

2. Elective Courses

To the extent that the required 15 Concentration units are not satisfied by a student's taking additional Core Courses from the courses listed above, students must satisfy the remaining Concentration units by taking Elective Courses from the following list:

Advanced Entertainment Law Seminar (2 units)
Amateur Sports Law (2 units)
Antitrust Law (3 units)
Chain of Title (1 unit)
Defamation, Privacy, Publicity (2 units)
Entertainment & Media Litigation (1 unit)
Entertainment Industry Guilds (2 units)
Entertainment Litigation (2 units)
Fashion Law (2 units)
Financing & Distributing Independent Films (2 units)
First Amendment Seminar (2 units)
Independent Study on the Profession (SCALE) (only related to entertainment or media law) (2 units)
International & Comparative Copyright Law (1 unit)
International Art Law (3 units)
International Comparative Intellectual Property Law (2 units)
International & Comparative Media Law (3 units)
International Entertainment Law (1 or 3 units)
International Media Law (3 units)
International Music Law (1 or 3 units)

International Sports Law (3 units)
Media as an International Human Right (1 unit)
Motion Picture Marketing & Distribution (2 units)
Motion Picture Production Law (2 units)
Music for Film & Television (1 unit)
Music Industry Contracts (2 units)
Music Touring Law (2 units)
Sports Law (2 units)
Technologies of Telecommunications Law & Policy (3 units)
Television Production Law (2 units)
The Music Publishing Industry (2 units)
Unscripted TV Production Law (2 units)
Video Game Law (2 units)
Writers Guild: Agreements & Negotiation (1 unit)

