

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL
L O S A N G E L E S

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs

**Biederman Entertainment
& Media Law Institute**

Biederman Institute

Q. What is the Biederman Entertainment and Media Law Institute (A.K.A. Biederman Institute or BEMLI)?

A. Southwestern's Donald E. Biederman Entertainment and Media Law Institute was established in 2000 to take advantage of the law school's long history of involvement with the entertainment and media industries. The Institute houses Southwestern's entertainment, sports, and media law programs and offers a rich spectrum of media, sports, and entertainment law courses and experiential learning opportunities under the direction of faculty who have tremendous practical experience in the field.

Southwestern has been recognized as one of the top ten law schools in the country for entertainment law by The Hollywood Reporter nine years in a row, and as #1 in the Top Law Schools for Entertainment Law by Lawstreetmedia.com, among other honors. In addition to approximately 50 entertainment, media, and sports law courses offered in rotation, there are the following:

- Traditional Classes Road Map: www.swlaw.edu/BEMLIRoadMap
- SCALE Classes Road Map: www.swlaw.edu/SCALEBemliRoadMap

The Biederman Institute also includes: the London Summer Abroad Program, the A Conversation With speaker series and Podcasts, the Journal of International Media and Entertainment Law (JIMEL), and the Annual Entertainment and Media Law Conference.

Details about these programs can be found here:

- London: www.swlaw.edu/GoToLondonLaw
- A Conversation With... Program and the Annual entertainment and Media Law Conference: www.swlaw.edu/BEMLI#t-2
- JIMEL: www.swlaw.edu/JIMEL



Q. Where is the Biederman Institute, and how do I get in touch with it?

A. Its main office is located at 333 Bullocks Wilshire (the north side of the school overlooking Wilshire Boulevard). The office tel. # is: (213) 738-6602. You can email the office directly: institute@swlaw.edu. Students and alums can sign up for Biederman Institute email updates regarding special events, auditing courses, etc. See "Connect with Us!" on the following link: www.swlaw.edu/BEMLI.

Q. When should students interact with the Biederman Institute?

A. Any time the student wants to discuss courses, events, and/or careers related to entertainment and media law or anything else related to entertainment, sports, and media law.

Externships

Q. How and when can students get entertainment and media law externships?

A. Externships are available to full-time students starting their first summer and part-time students starting their second summer. Completion of Copyright Law is a pre-requisite to entertainment law externships (in-house as well as law firm positions). Externships can be paid and are available in fall, spring, and summer (as well as Period 8 for SCALE).

Given the unique and competitive nature of entertainment law externships, it's highly recommended to discuss your externship interests with the Biederman director, along with reaching out to the Externship Program staff. Securing that first entertainment law externship in your first summer could be challenging. Alternatives and helpful strategies to better position yourself for an entertainment externship are the following: take related summer courses on campus (there are always a few); attend the London Summer Abroad Program; or take advantage of an alternative externship that will give you the transferable skills for your desired externship (e.g., attention to detail, research, drafting).





Entertainment, Sports, and Media Law Jobs Placement Assistance

Q. Why should I meet with a Career Services Advisor?

- A.** You should meet with your CSO advisor to discuss interests and put together a plan of action (mandatory for all 1Ls); continue the engagement; meet with your advisor during your graduating year (mandatory for all graduating students).

Q. What are the entertainment and media law career services resources available to me?

- A.** Contact the Career Services Office (Westmoreland Bldg., Room 323) for the following resources:
- Career Guide for resume samples, cover letter samples, and much more
 - Resource Guide (update the date and heading on top)
 - State by State list of representative employers (update date and heading on top)

Q. What do entertainment lawyers do?

A. Entertainment lawyers can help negotiate the business terms of entertainment transactions (whether related to creative services or rights). They can also do clearance work by analyzing copyright, trademark, and right of publicity issues.

Q. What are some suggested courses or other training?

A. Copyright, Trademark, Contracts; the Biederman courses involving negotiation and/or drafting, the IP-related courses, the guilds/unions related courses, and any of the courses that the Biederman Institute offers that relate to the practice area you want to go into (e.g. sports, media, film/tv).

Q. How do I get experience as a law student?

A. Internships/externships/clinics; part-time jobs; networking.

Q. What does a good entertainment resume look like?

A. Look at the examples in the Guide provided by the Career Services Office (CSO).

An expanded list of potential employers in the private and public sectors: USPTO, U.S. Copyright Office; FTC; FCC; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Gallery of Art; Smithsonian Institution...



Auditing Courses

Q. Can one audit the entertainment, sports, and media law courses?

- A.** Often, yes, alums, lawyers, and other industry professionals may audit the courses subject to availability and for either \$500 for 3- and 2-unit courses and \$300 for 1-unit courses (not including books and materials and parking). Lawyers can also get Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit by contacting the Institutional Advancement Office at (213) 738-6814; institutionaladvancement@swlaw.edu.



Entertainment and Media Law Concentration



Q. What does it mean to have Entertainment and Media Law Concentration, and should I pursue that?

A. For details about eligibility and curriculum requirements, visit www.swlaw.edu/Concentrations. You may also contact the Director of the Entertainment and Media Law Concentration, Professor Michael Epstein at mepstein@swlaw.edu; 213-738-6774. His office is located on the 3rd Floor of the BW building, in room BW309. Please note that if you cannot take all the courses required to get the concentration designation, you can still demonstrate your training and skillset by demonstrating the courses you did take and the training you received. This will likely suffice if substantial (meaning even if you are not able to get the actual concentration designation).

Entertainment and the Arts Law Clinic



Q. When and how do I enroll in the Entertainment and the Arts Clinic?

A. Enrollment is by invitation only, and applicants are notified by email about the application process approximately one month prior to the end of each semester. Those students selected will be enrolled for the following semester. Interested students should contact the Biederman Institute for more information: www.swlaw.edu/HFPAClinic.

Biederman Institute Related Student and Alumni Associations

Q. What are the Biederman Institute-related student and alumni associations?

- A.** Biederman-related student organizations include the Entertainment Law Society, Intellectual Property Law Society, Music Law Society, and Sports Law Society.

To view a list of student organizations, visit www.swlaw.edu/StudentOrgs.

Southwestern Entertainment and IP Alumni Association (SWEIP)
www.swlaw.edu/AlumniAssoc



Resources

Are there any other suggested resources that I should be aware of?

The following are resources that include associations, societies, other law school institutes, and publications that will help you network and/or keep up with the entertainment industry and entertainment law practices.

- Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association (LAIPLA)
- Association of Media & Entertainment Counsel Women Who Lead (AMEC)
- UCLA's Ziffren Institute for Media, Entertainment, Technology and Sports Law
- USC Gould School of Law, Intellectual Property Institute
- USC Gould School of Law, Entertainment Law Institute
- Chiefs in Intellectual Property (ChIPs)
- Beverly Hills Bar Association
- California Fashion Association
- California Lawyers Association, Intellectual Property Section
- International Trademark Association
- Los Angeles Copyright Society

Publications:

- Deadline
- IndieWire
- The Hollywood Reporter
- THR, Esq.
- Variety

Full-time Entertainment and Media Law Faculty:

- Chris Cameron: ccameron@swlaw.edu; 213-738-6749; Room BW429
- Michael Epstein: mepstein@swlaw.edu; 213-738-6774; Room BW309
- Jay Gendron: jgendron@swlaw.edu; 213-738-6842; Room BW343
- Kevin Greene: kjgreene@swlaw.edu; 213-738-6866; Room BW317
- Michael Scott: mdscott@swlaw.edu; 213-738-6625; Room BW341
- John Tehranian: jtehranian@swlaw.edu; 213-738-6823; Room BW319

BEMLI Department:

Senior Associate Director, Tamara Moore: tmoore@swlaw.edu; 213-738-6602; Room BW333

You may also contact Adjunct Faculty teaching in entertainment – contact information is available on the Southwestern website, on the professor's syllabus, and in Canvas.