

Entertainment & Sports Law Forum May 13, 2021

Faculty Biographies

Jenna Harris has a broad-based litigation practice at Ritholz Levy Fields, LLP with a primary focus on intellectual property and commercial litigation, and she is experienced in complex business disputes and issues relating to entertainment, copyright, trademark and trade secret. Jenna has represented clients in federal and state court actions, and also assists clients with transactional matters related to copyright, trademark and branding.

Jenna provides business-minded counseling to clients in the music, fashion, media, entertainment, film, and e-commerce industries. She understands the value of intellectual property and the importance of strategic decisions in maintaining and enhancing that value.

Christian Barker, Partner, joined the Nashville office of Shackelford, Bowen, McKinley & Norton, LLP in August 2020 after nearly eight years as a solo practice entertainment attorney and most recently Special Counsel and leader of the Lewis, Thomason, King, Krieg & Waldrop, PLC Entertainment Law Practice Group. Primarily music industry-focused, Christian provides transactional and litigation representation for artists, songwriters, producers, independent record labels, independent music publishing companies, and boutique artist management companies nationwide.

Alandis Brassel is the Principal Attorney at The Brassel Firm where he advises and represents organizations and individuals in their litigation and transactional needs. Alandis' practice includes entertainment, intellectual property (copyright and trademark), breach of contract and estate matters. He also practices in commercial transactions. Alandis has helped entrepreneurs, artists, songwriters, nonprofit organizations, small companies, and individuals negotiate and enforce agreements and protect their assets and intellectual property rights. Before entering private practice, Alandis worked as Counsel for U.S. Representative Jim Cooper (TN-05), where he advised the Congressman on policy, handled complex casework, and represented Cooper in the Community. Alandis also served as the Program Director for the Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville, where he supervised the legal and education programs.

Alandis is a graduate of Vanderbilt University Law School, where he was a Dean's Scholar and served as Executive Development Editor of the Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law. Prior to law school, Alandis worked as a professional audio engineer and served a client list that included major record labels, a national television network, and a Grammy-winning record producer. He received a M.A. in Music Business from New York University and a B.S. in Music

Engineering Technology (magna cum laude) from Hampton University where he was a member of the Honors College.

When he isn't assisting clients, Alandis enjoys collecting vinyl records, officiating football games, and spending time with his wife, Thallen, and their two sons, Alandis, Jr. and Theodore.

Ross Cameron is Co-Founding Partner of Lyric. Prior to Lyric, Cameron led Spirit's Acquisitions & Business Development strategies. Cameron was responsible for initiatives associated with Spirit's strategic acquisitions, including valuations, due diligence and negotiations. During his time at Spirit, Cameron deployed over \$100 million for catalogue / platform acquisitions. Prior to joining Spirit, Cameron was an Investment Analyst at Pegasus Capital Advisors, a multi-billion dollar middle-market private equity firm. Cameron graduated with distinction from the University of Edinburgh, where he received his M.A. (Honors) in Business Studies.

David Crow has been professionally active in the music business for over twenty-seven years and has focused his law practice exclusively on entertainment and intellectual property matters for the past fifteen years. David is a partner with the firm Milom Horsnell Crow Kelley Beckett Shehan PLC and prior to the formation of the firm, he was an associate in the Entertainment and Intellectual Property and Technology practice groups of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC. David received his B.B.A. in Music Business Management (Magna Cum Laude) from Belmont University in 1996, and his J.D. from the Vanderbilt University School of Law in 2000. David's practice primarily consists of the representation of independent artists, independent labels, major label artists, songwriters, technology companies, producers, publishing companies and those companies and individuals that seek to license and exploit intellectual property content.

Derek Crownover is a recognized leader in the music, entertainment, sports and media industries, counseling publishing companies, independent record labels, singers and songwriters who own their copyrights, and music publishing administration companies on licensing, liability matters and related litigation. He also counsels clients on recording agreements, employment agreements, LLC funding deals, real estate deals, asset purchase agreements and trusts and estates matters. In addition to his work as a metaphorical "primary care physician" for his music, corporate and tech clients, Derek also advises several sports-related businesses and athletes.

With strong ties to the local Nashville community, Derek is national counsel for the T.J. Martell Foundation, pro bono counsel for the New Children First Montessori Community School, and a former adjunct professor of entertainment law at the Curb Music Business School at Belmont University.

Justin Fielkow is an attorney with significant experience working with businesses in the sports and entertainment industries – both as in-house counsel and in private practice.

Recent: Associate Counsel, Marketing & Promotions, Content and Production Risk, at NBCUniversal. Provided advice and counsel to companies across NBCU's broad portfolio, including its broadcast and cable networks, local stations, and regional sports networks.

Previously: Attorney at Franklin Law Group, consulting for and providing an array of legal services to businesses in the sports and entertainment industries.

Former Chair of the Chicago Bar Association Sports Law Committee. Insights regarding sports and entertainment law have appeared in publications such as the International Business Times, Law360, Rolling Stone, and the Boston Herald, as well as numerous others.

Super Lawyers Illinois Rising Star - Entertainment & Sports (2019).

Alex Hall is an associate attorney at Shuttleworth, PLLC's Memphis office. He practices in the areas of civil litigation, contract law, sports and gaming law, and intellectual property matters, including copyright, trademark, and trade secret law. Alex earned his Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Georgia, and he received his law degree from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, where he was a Humphreys Research fellow, President of the Student Bar Association, and a member of the University of Memphis Law Review. Since 2015, Alex has been involved with the rapidly-growing landscape of sports gambling. He worked with the Los Angeles Dodgers legal team as part of its accelerator program, advising sports businesses and technology startups on issues related to gambling laws and compliance, and he regularly advises businesses operating in the sports gambling and fantasy sports space. He has been a featured speaker and panelist at seminars hosted by the Nashville and Memphis Bar Associations about the intersection of sports gambling and the law.

Joe Kennedy became General Counsel of Nashville SC in January 2021. Prior to that, he was Vice President and Assistant General Counsel for the Atlanta Hawks & State Farm Arena. He is a graduate of Duke University and Catholic University Law.

Tom Lee practices in the areas of government services and business litigation, concentrating his work on lobbying and government relations, and providing strategic counsel on managing public policy change on state and local levels.

Tom's approach to serving clients is seasoned by three decades of experience as a lobbyist, attorney, litigator, winning campaign strategist, university educator, and Emmy-award-winning journalist. With this diverse portfolio of experience, Tom is well regarded and sought after in his field. As MSNBC political commentator Harold Ford Jr. has said, "There are lots of people in Tennessee gifted in business or government or media or politics, but no one puts all of it together any better than Tom Lee. He sees the whole field."

In an age when the face of government relations is evolving daily due to ethical reforms, increasing transparency, and an electronically engaged electorate, quality and attention to nuance has never mattered more. Getting results in politics involves the accumulation and wise investment of political capital, paired with the experience necessary to navigate the new model. The central focus of Tom's practice is maintaining the correlation between these crucial parts, an approach that consistently gains success.

Prior to joining Frost Brown Todd, Tom was principal of his own public strategies firm and a partner at Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis. Tom won two Emmy awards and numerous other national awards for investigative journalism and documentaries, ranging from health care policy to the aftermath of the first Iraq War.

Above all, Tom is passionate about the needs of his community and the passions of his clients. He enjoys his work as an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt University, where he teaches courses on lobbying, legislation, and public advocacy.

Billy Mann is an American songwriter, record producer, creative executive, music publisher, and founder/CEO of independent music publishing company Green & Bloom/Topline, as well as chairman of management firm Manncom. In addition to Mann's existing management and publishing holdings, in 2021, alongside partner, vet music executive, Benton James, he launched Proof Of Concept, a boutique talent development and creative media services firm which focuses on elevating the stories, brands and careers of creatives and corporates alike for tomorrow's digital landscape. Later that same year, April 2021, in partnership with Warner Music Group's ADA Worldwide, Mann and James announced the launch of joint venture label, icons+giants.

Over a 25-year period, Mann has written songs and/or produced records for/with an array of artists, including P!nk, John Legend, Celine Dion, Take That, Backstreet Boys, Cher, David Guetta, Kelly Rowland, Jessica Simpson, Sheryl Crow, Burt Bacharach, Bebe Rexha, Ty Dolla \$ign, Ricky Martin, Anastacia, Art Garfunkel, Sting, Joss Stone, Robyn, Grover Washington Jr., Chaka Khan, Boyzone, Paula Abdul, Helene Fischer, Cher Lloyd, Paul Van Dyk, Hilary Duff, Jennifer Brown and Carole King.

Since penning his first top 10 hit in the UK for EMI in 1995 with "3 Is Family" by Dana Dawson, Mann has racked up several Top 40 hits around the world (including several Top 10s and number 1s), with cumulative album sales of over 110 million.

Raised just 90 miles outside of Nashville in the small town of Waverly, Tennessee, Vanderbilt University grad **Ebie McFarland** founded Essential Broadcast Media, LLC, an award-winning PR company in 2007. Since, she has helped launch the careers of critically acclaimed artists such as Ashley McBryde, Caitlyn Smith and Old Dominion to earning the trust of discriminating artists

such as George Strait, Kenny Chesney and Eric Church to retaining longtime clients such as Darius Rucker and Hootie & the Blowfish, further reinforcing McFarland and her team understand and execute the growing importance of telling one's story with passion, grit and perseverance.

Meet **Gina Miller**, music industry veteran, who has been responsible during her tenure at eOne, for the campaigns of artists that have included: Shirley Caesar, Bishop Paul S. Morton, JJ Hairston, Erica Campbell, Karen Clark Sheard, Dorinda Clark Cole, Donald Lawrence, Michelle Williams, Lalah Hathaway, Tweet, Hezekiah Walker and notable others.

After a non-traditional internship at Light Records in Nashville, Gina accepted a position as Radio & Retail Promotions Coordinator in 2004, then moved to Director of Sales & Label Relations, followed by Marketing manager. She was named VP of National Promotions & Marketing for Light Records, then moved to VP Promotions & Label Relations, after being acquired by Entertainment One. Gina approaches almost 14 years with the company, and more than 6 years as a VP.

Miller, currently serves as Vice President and General Manager of Entertainment One, Nashville...for Miller this role is a history making moment, not just related to the Gospel & Christian Music Genres, but in Urban music and all genres and most entities that comprise the recorded music, entertainment and media industries...Her position is one that only a handful number of women, not just currently, but historically, being African American or otherwise can boast that this opportunity has been afforded.

Day to Day she oversees Operations, which includes the management of every aspect from budgets to the development of initiatives, plans, new business, strategy and partnerships. In her role, Gina also recruits and signs talent, oversees and manages staff, artist relationships, music, products, radio, sales, production, publicity and the overall division's bottom line.

Actively, the eOne roster includes: William McDowell, James Fortune & FIYA, Deitrick Haddon, Ricky Dillard, Jonathan McReynolds, Todd Dulaney, Lisa Page Brooks and many more.

Gina is a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), the Gospel Music Association (GMA), the Stellar Awards Gospel Music Academy (SAGMA) and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. As well as the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), the National Black MBA Association (NBMBA), the National Association of Professional Women (NAPW), and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Miller, leads the Nashville Network of the National Association of Black Female Executives in Media & Entertainment™ (NABFEME) and is the Founder of Gina Miller Enterprises, which is home to Gina Miller Presents.

Kerry O'Neil is the Co-Founder of Big Yellow Dog Music, an independent music publishing and artist development company. Big Yellow Dog Music has been recognized with four Grammys, 35 No.1 songs, four Song of the Year awards (ACM, BMI, and two ASCAP), an ASCAP Global Award, five ASCAP/BMI Pop awards, and many others. The catalog includes songs performed by Meghan Trainor, Maren Morris, Lady Antebellum, Demi Lovato, Luke Bryan, Keith Urban, Jennifer Lopez, Jason Derulo, Florida Georgia Line, DJ Khaled, Dierks Bentley, Fifth Harmony, Martina McBride, Michael Buble, and more. Big Yellow Dog Music's film, television and brand division had more than 400 placements in both 2016 and 2017, including uses in Apple, "Grey's Anatomy", "Big Little Lies", JCPenny, "How To Get Away With Murder", "13 Reasons Why", Weight Watchers, "Smurfs: The Lost Village", Toyota and many more. O'Neil is also a Founding Member of the consulting and business firm of O'Neil Hagaman, PLLC, which focuses solely on representing individuals in the entertainment industry. He is the Co-Founder of Warner Western Records, a joint venture with Warner Bros-Nashville, which produces Native American music, western music, and cowboy poetry, and has been a pop producer agent, and artist manager. O'Neil has been named one of Billboard's 2017 Country Power Players and Top Business Managers. He is also a CPA and a CFP.

Chip Petree opened the Nashville office of Ritholz Levy Fields in 2014 as a partner in the firm's Entertainment Group after a decade heading up his own law practice, Petree Law. As a practitioner specializing in transactional work in the music and entertainment industries, Chip represents a diverse group of individuals and companies in all areas of the entertainment industry, including #1 songwriters, critically acclaimed and chart-topping recording artists, record producers, independent music publishers, new media service providers, and on-air television talent. In addition to his own law practice, since its inception in 2004 Chip also served as General Manager for Copyright Exchange, LLC, a consulting and brokerage firm that specialized in the buying and selling of copyright catalogs. Through his law practice and Copyright Exchange, Chip has closed over forty catalog sales worth over \$100 million and has established himself as a leader and authority on the catalog market.

Chip began his career in as a lawyer in two boutique entertainment law practices in Nashville, and he has spent two years practicing technology law at a major international law firm in Silicon Valley. Chip has also served in the in-house legal departments at the RIAA, BMG Entertainment and CBS Cable/MTV Networks, where he was primary counsel to CMT.

Chip is a 1993 graduate of Davidson College and a 1997 graduate of the Wake Forest University School of Law. He is a member of NARAS/The Recording Academy, Academy of Country Music, AIMP, Country Music Association, Copyright Society of the South, Nashville Bar Association (and its Sports and Entertainment Law Committee), Leadership Music and SOLID.

After graduating from MTSU's music business program in 1993, **Sam Powers** began his career as an intern at Little Big Town Music. While there, Powers worked his way up to become the Director of Administration. After Little Big Town was acquired by Sony/ATV Tree Publishing in

1998, he became the Assistant to VP/GM of Creative, Woody Bomar. In 1999, Powers joined critically acclaimed indie rock band Superdrag as bassist and songwriter. He toured the world with the band until 2003, when he returned to Sony/ATV's Special Projects Department. Since 2007, Powers has worked in the Special Projects Department at O'Neil Hagaman, bringing his unique perspective to a variety of IP/Royalty matters (e.g. catalog sales, due diligence, audits, etc.). In March 2019, he was named a Principal at the firm where he oversees the Special Projects department.

Charly Salvatore is a Nashville based artist manager who has worked with LeAnn Rimes, Billy Currington, Russell Dickerson, and Logan Mize. He discovered, developed, and in 2020 broke Avenue Beat and Priscilla Block.

He began his music industry career as a creative director for independent songwriters and publishing companies. During that time he was responsible for a number of major label cuts. After his stint working in the publishing world Charly found himself out on the road touring the country with Little Big Town, LeAnn Rimes, Eric Church, Jamey Johnson, and One Republic.

Prior to his move to Nashville, Charly spent a number of years at Rainmaker Representation Group a sports marketing and representation agency in Baltimore, MD. Working with athletes Cal Ripken Jr., Ray Lewis, Ed Reed, Jayson Werth, Gavin Floyd, and many others.

"I grew up listening to country music—Barbara Mandrell, the Judds, Alabama," **Kella Stephenson Farris** says in her office on Music Row. "I remember being nine years-old and staring at a Clint Black album I got for Christmas, then being amazed when I realized he wrote all his own songs. Now I get to give back to creative people like them—people I just really love and respect."

That sense of grateful admiration—coupled with finely honed expertise and an independent streak—has defined Kella's career for more than a decade. After early roles with Alabama's Jeff Cook and Flood, Bumstead, McCreedy, and McCarthy, she set out on her own to open the Kella Stephenson Company, which she led for eight years. "It all started with songwriters," she says with a smile. Today, her clients have collectively written more than 80 no. 1 songs—and counting—while top-tier recording artists round out her roster.

In 2015, Kella partnered with Stephanie Self and Catherine Moore to launch Farris, Self & Moore, LLC (FSM)—a boutique business management and financial planning company that specializes in the unique needs of hit songwriters and major recording artists. Kella is most passionate about FSM's financial planning services. Time and time again, she has witnessed what customized, big-picture strategy coupled with daily follow-through can achieve. "I love being able to explain what it means financially when an artist or songwriter signs a contract—publishing, recording, catalog sale, any type," Kella says. "That's the team member I aim to be: the one who can make these complex financial agreements easy to understand."

A member of Leadership Music (class of 2014), the Recording Academy, ACM, and CMA, where she currently serves on the Board of Directors, a NOW (Nurturing Outstanding Women) mentor, Kella remains active in a variety of ways with her alma mater Auburn University, where she earned a B.S. in finance as well as her MBA. When the CFP®-certified leader isn't advising clients or in the audience of a Nashville writers' round, Kella is practicing yoga, spending time with her husband DJ, son Everett and daughter Caroline, or traveling to favorite spots including Sedona, Arizona; Rosemary Beach, Florida; and the family farm in Eufaula, Alabama.

Born and raised in Nashville, **Rob Taylor** received his degree in accounting from Middle Tennessee State University and entered the work force in private accounting shortly after graduation. In 1996, he made the move to public accounting by joining Smith, Wiles & Co, as a member of their tax department.

He was promoted to tax manager in 2000. In 2008, he was promoted to general manager of the firm where his duties expanded into Business Management services primarily for music industry executives, producers and songwriters. Today, in addition to leading the tax operations of the firm, his duties encompass overseeing the firm's personnel, IT, and administrative needs for the staff. In 2016, he became a name partner in the firm, where it is now known as Wiles + Taylor & Co.

Taylor is a member of the TSCPA and AICPA. When he isn't working he enjoys watching football, playing golf, attending Predator games, watching his son play hockey, and having movie night with the family at home.