



# The Recording Academy<sup>®</sup>

3030 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90404

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**\*\*\*MEDIA ALERT FOR FRIDAY, FEB. 10, 2017\*\*\***

## **19TH ANNUAL ENTERTAINMENT LAW INITIATIVE<sup>®</sup> ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2017 WRITING COMPETITION**

*GRAMMY Foundation<sup>®</sup> Luncheon & Scholarship Presentation To Feature  
Keynote Speech By William Morris Endeavor's Marc Geiger; Attorney Elliot Groffman To Receive ELI Service Award*

**WHO:** The winners of the **2017 Entertainment Law Initiative<sup>®</sup> Writing Competition** have been announced.

### Winner

**Stephanie Beach**, Seton Hall University School of Law

### Paper Title

"Born To Run: Amending Right Of Publicity Statutes To Address The Use Of Music In Political Campaigning"

### Runners-Up

**Leslie DeGonia**, Washington University School of Law

"This Is My Fight Song, Take Back My Termination Rights Song"

**Andrew Smith**, Pepperdine University School of Law

"Festival State Of Safety: Amending The IDAPA And Preventing Future Drug-Related Deaths At Electronic Music Festivals"

**Trevor Maxim**, USC Gould School of Law

"Giving Copyright Holders a Fair Shake: How The Music Industry Can Manage DMCA Takedowns Under Lenz"

**Mary Catherine Amerine**, William & Mary Law School

"Searching For A Sound: A Proposal For Creating Consistent De Minimis Sampling Standards In The Music Industry"

The **19th annual Entertainment Law Initiative Luncheon & Scholarship Presentation** will take place during GRAMMY<sup>®</sup> Week featuring a **keynote address by Marc Geiger**, head of music/partner at William Morris Endeavor. **Elliot Groffman**, a partner at Carroll, Guido & Groffman LLP, will be the recipient of the **2017 ELI Service Award**. The honor is awarded to an attorney who has demonstrated a commitment to advancing and supporting the music community through service. Other program participants include **Henry Root**, ELI Executive Committee Chair; **Ken Abdo**, ELI Program Chair and top music industry attorney (Lommen Abdo); and **Neil Portnow**, President/CEO of The Recording Academy<sup>®</sup> and GRAMMY Foundation<sup>®</sup>. GRAMMY Foundation Vice President **Scott Goldman** will be the host. **Daryl P. Friedman**, Chief Industry, Government & Member Relations Officer for The Recording Academy, will also be in attendance.

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## 19th Annual Entertainment Law Initiative

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**WHAT:** The ELI Writing Competition is open to **law students**, who are asked to write a **3,000-word essay on a compelling legal issue facing the music industry**. A cash scholarship of \$5,000 will be awarded to the winner of the **ELI Writing Competition** and \$1,500 will be awarded to each of the four runners-up. The winners of the ELI Writing Competition will be awarded at the luncheon. All competition finalists receive airfare, hotel accommodations and a ticket to the **59th Annual GRAMMY Awards®** as well as invitations to other **GRAMMY Week** activities. The 59th Annual GRAMMY Awards will be held at STAPLES Center in Los Angeles on Sunday, Feb. 12, and broadcast live at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT on the CBS Television Network.

The Recording Academy, in concert with some of the nation's most prominent entertainment attorneys, established the Entertainment Law Initiative to promote discussion and debate about the most compelling legal issues facing the music industry today. The Entertainment Law Initiative Luncheon & Scholarship Presentation is one of the most prestigious events held during GRAMMY Week, a celebration that culminates with the 59th Annual GRAMMY Awards. Established in 1998 to recognize and further the connection between the legal profession and the recording community, the ELI program seeks to address legal issues confronting the music industry. ELI also endeavors to support future careers in entertainment law by seeking out the nation's top law students and giving them invaluable networking and educational opportunities.

**WHERE:** The Beverly Hilton Hotel  
9876 Wilshire Blvd.  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**PARKING:** \$15 — Self Park; \$18 — Valet

**WHEN:** **Friday, Feb. 10, 2017**  
10:45 a.m. Media Check-In  
11 a.m. Reception and Media Interviews  
11:45 a.m. Luncheon, Remarks, and Scholarship Awards

### **ABOUT THE RECORDING ACADEMY:**

The Recording Academy is the only trade association that represents all music creators; performers, songwriters, and studio professionals. With a membership comprised entirely of music creators, and no companies, the organization is in a unique position to provide an amplified voice for music makers for the greater good of the entire music community. The non-profit Academy serves as a connection between policymakers and the collective world of performers, songwriters, and studio professionals to advance the rights of music creators through year-round grassroots initiatives.

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**IMPORTANT: If you are interested in covering this event, you MUST request credentials no later than 6 p.m. PT on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017. Credentials can be picked up at media check-in on the day of the event. MEDIA MUST BE CREDENTIALLED. All satellite truck/van parking must be coordinated no later than Tuesday, Feb. 7.**

### **MEDIA RSVP MANDATORY:**

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