

MELISSA M. ECKHAUSE

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY SCHOOL OF LAW (Detroit, Michigan)

Associate Professor August 2025 - Present

Co-Director of the Arts & Entertainment Law Clinic 2022 - Present

Assistant Professor 2022-2025

Visiting Assistant Professor 2020 – 2022

- Teach Copyright Law, Trademark and Unfair Competition Law, Intellectual Property Survey, First Amendment, Entertainment Law, and Applied Legal Theory I and II.
- Founder and Co-Director of the Arts & Entertainment Law Clinic, which represents parties before the Copyright Claims Board and advises clients on trademark, copyright, and other intellectual property law issues.
- Developed and oversaw the National Patent Application Drafting Competition course, which twice won the Midwest Region Competition and advanced to the National Finals.
- Serve as Detroit Mercy's liaison for the Intellectual Property Law Institute and the faculty advisor of the Intellectual Property & Entertainment Law Society.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (Los Angeles, California)

ANNENBERG SCHOOL FOR COMMUNICATION AND JOURNALISM

Lecturer 2019 – 2023

- Taught Advanced Media Law in the Digital Age and Law of Mass Communication.

GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW

Lecturer in Law 2019 – 2020

- Taught Legal Writing and Advocacy.

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (San Francisco, California)

Adjunct Professor 2018 – 2019

- Taught Legal Writing and Research.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (Fort Worth, Texas)

Adjunct Professor 2015 - 2016

- Taught Entertainment Law.
- Developed and oversaw a pro bono service week in New Mexico for students in the Center for Law and Intellectual Property.
- Supervised and reviewed student presentations to musicians, documentary filmmakers, and other community art organizations regarding intellectual property and entertainment issues.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

LAW OFFICE OF MELISSA M. ECKHAUSE (Chicago, Illinois)

Attorney and Owner 2007 - 2012

- Represented clients in the entertainment and arts industries in litigation and deals.

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP (Chicago, Illinois)

Associate (Trial Department) 2004 - 2007

- Represented Fortune 500 companies and entrepreneurs in various commercial and intellectual property disputes and class action lawsuits.

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP (Cleveland, Ohio)

Associate (Litigation Department) 2002 - 2004

- Litigated numerous complex commercial, intellectual property, and entertainment cases.

THOMPSON HINE LLP (Cleveland, Ohio)

Associate (Litigation Department) 1999 - 2002

- Represented clients in intellectual property and complex commercial lawsuits.

DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC (Detroit, Michigan)

Associate (Litigation Department) 1998 - 1999; Summer Associate 1997

- Litigated various products liability and contract disputes.

PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, AND WORKSHOPS

- Intellectual Property Scholars Conference, (presenter), August 2024, Berkeley, California.
- “Copyright Trolling and the Copyright Claims Board,” (speaker), Federal Bar Association Eastern District of Michigan, June 2024, online.
- Conference on Innovation and Communications Law, (presenter), June 2024, University of Leeds, United Kingdom.
- University of Pennsylvania and Columbia Law School’s Ninth Copyright Scholarship Roundtable, (presenter), May 2024, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- “The Copyright Claims Board and the Fears of Copyright Trolling,” (speaker), U.S. Inventors, February 2024, online.
- Duke Law School and Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law’s 7th Workshop on Empirical Methods in Intellectual Property, (presenter), July 2023, Durham, North Carolina.
- “Copyright Claims Board Roundtable Discussion,” (speaker), the Los Angeles and New York chapters of the Copyright Society of the USA, May 2023, online.
- Columbia Law School 2022 Copyright Scholarship Roundtable, (presenter), June 2022, New York, New York.
- “Ensuring Diversity and Inclusivity in Copyright Modernization Efforts Roundtable,” (participant), April 2022, Oceanside, California.
- “The CASE Act and Other Changes to IP Law under the Covid-19 Relief Bill,” (presenter), Michigan Intellectual Property Law Association, October 2021, online.

- UNH Franklin Pierce Center for Intellectual Property’s Annual Academic Roundtable, (presenter), September 2021, Concord, New Hampshire.
- “Balance in the Age of Chaos,” (speaker), Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, July 2021, Amelia Island, Florida.
- “The New Chinese Copyright Law,” (commentator), Texas A&M University School of Law and Tsinghua University School of Law (China) Workshop, June 2021, online.
- “Image Making, Image Taking: Copyright & Fair Use for Artists and Art Historians,” (speaker), the College Art Association Annual Conference, February 2018, Los Angeles, California.
- “Copyright & Music Streaming,” (speaker), CLE to Dallas Bar Association and the Copyright Society of the USA, May 2016, Dallas, Texas.
- “Copyright for Artists,” (speaker), Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts, October 2015, Dallas, Texas.
- “Music and Copyrights, the Legal Aspects of the Music Business,” (speaker), Art House Dallas, June 2015, Dallas, Texas.
- “Art Law Update: Survey of *Juris Artis*,” (speaker), CLE to Dallas Bar Association, April 2015, Dallas, Texas.
- “Copyrights and Trademarks in Wine Labels,” (speaker), New Mexico Wine Growers Association 2015 Wine Education Conference, March 2015, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- “Teaching in the U.S. and Canada: Theories and Practicalities” (moderator), International Trademark Association Leadership Meeting, November 2014, Phoenix, Arizona.

PUBLICATIONS

Closed Doors to Justice: How the Copyright Claims Board Is Shutting Out Pro Se Litigants, 43 *Cardozo Arts & Ent. L.J.*1 (2025).

“Copyright Troll,” *Elgar Encyclopedia of Intellectual Property Law* (contributor).

Fighting Image Piracy or Copyright Trolling? An Empirical Study of Photography Copyright Infringement Lawsuits 86 *Albany Law Review* 111 (2023).

Digital Sampling v. Appropriation Art: Why Is One Stealing and the Other Fair Use? A Proposal for a Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Digital Music Sampling, 84 *Mo. L. Rev.* 371 (2019).

“Is Appropriation Art Ever Appropriate?,” *Dallas Bar Association Headnotes*, Jan. 2013, at 9.

A Chastity Belt for Lawyers: Proposed MRPC 1.8(k) and the Regulation of Attorney-Client Sexual Relationships, Note, 75 *U. Det. Mercy L. Rev.* 115 (1997).

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY SCHOOL OF LAW (Berkeley, California)
LL.M.

Honors/Activities

- Highest Honors in Patent Law, Advanced Copyright Seminar, and Trademark Law classes
- Specialization in Law & Technology
- Journal of Entertainment and Sports Law Article Team Member
- New Business Practicum Intellectual Property Advisor

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY SCHOOL OF LAW (Detroit, Michigan)

Juris Doctorate *Summa Cum Laude*

Class Rank 1 / 131

Honors/Activities

- Law Review (Health Care Law Symposium Editor, Title Editor)
- Moot Court Board of Directors
- Winner of G. Mennen Williams 1996 Moot Court
- Book Awards (for highest grade in class) in ten subjects
- Research Assistant to Professors Richard Myers and Lawrence Dubin

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN (Madison, Wisconsin)

Bachelor of Business Administration *Cum Laude*

Major: Risk Management & Insurance

Honors/Activities

- Dean's List
- Business School Honors Program Graduate

BAR MEMBERSHIPS, ORGANIZATIONS, COMMITTEES, AND AWARDS

- Council Member, Arts, Communications, Entertainment, and Sports Section of the State Bar of Michigan (2024 – Present)
- Member of the State Bar of Michigan and admitted in Illinois and Ohio (inactive membership)
- The Center for Intellectual Property x Innovation Policy at George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School, Thomas Edison Innovation Law and Policy Fellowship (2023 – 2024)
- The Copyright Society of the USA (2015 – Present) and Member of the Los Angeles Planning Committee (2022-2023)
- International Trademark Association (2014 – Present); Professor Committee (2014 – 2016)
- Federal Bar Association Eastern District of Michigan (2024 – Present)
- Association of Legal Writing Directors (2019 – Present)
- Michigan Intellectual Property Law Association (2020 – Present)
- College Art Association Committee on Intellectual Property (2017 – 2021)
- Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts Advisory Board (2014 – 2016)
- Lawyers for the Creative Arts volunteer attorney (2008 – 2012)