



## MSIPI 2013 Speaker Biographies

### Richard Gershon

Richard Gershon is the Dean of the University of Mississippi School of Law. Prior to joining the faculty of the University of Mississippi School of Law, Dean Gershon served as the founding dean of the Charleston School of Law. The Charleston School of Law awarded him the LL.D. (Doctor of Laws honoris causa) for his service to that institution.

He served as dean of Texas Wesleyan University School of Law in Fort Worth Texas, where he was awarded the Alumni Leadership Award in 2001 and 2003 (the award has been renamed the I. Richard Gershon Leadership Award). Dean Gershon was also on the faculty at Stetson University School of Law from 1984-1998. He was the Academic Associate Dean at Stetson from 1988-1992.

He is a graduate of the University of Georgia BA 1979), the University of Tennessee (JD 1982), and the University of Florida (LLM Taxation 1983). He is the author of several books and articles on taxation and legal education. He is a member of the Florida and Georgia Bars.

Dean Gershon serves on the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission, The Mississippi Bar Professionalism Committee, and the Boys and Girls Clubs Advisory Board.

### Gary Myers

Gary Myers is Dean and Earl F. Nelson Professor of Law at the University of Missouri School of Law. Myers received his juris doctor with honors from Duke University School of Law and graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in economics from New York University. He also earned an MA in economics from the Duke University Graduate School as part of a joint degree program while at Duke. Myers was an article editor on the Duke Law Journal and was a member of the Moot Court Board. After graduation, he served as a law clerk for Judge Gerald Tjoflat of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in Jacksonville, Fla. He then practiced complex commercial litigation with the Atlanta law firm of Powell, Goldstein, Frazer & Murphy, which has since merged with the Bryan Cave law firm.

Before being named the sixteenth dean at the School of Law, Myers was a long-time member of the faculty at the University of Mississippi School of Law. At Mississippi, Myers held the Ray & Louise Stewart Lectureship and served as its first associate dean for research. Myers has been a visiting professor of law at the College of William & Mary School of Law and Tulane University School of Law. He also served as a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at the Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans.

### Anita Modak-Truran

Anita Modak-Truran is a member of Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens and Cannada PLLC where her areas of emphasis include Drug and Medical Device, Product Liability, Copyright Counseling and Litigation, and Media and Entertainment Law. She currently serves as Chair of the Intellectual Property Section of the Mississippi Bar and as an Adjunct Professor at the Mississippi College School of Law.

### Joe Beck

Joe Beck has served as lead counsel in a number of copyright and other intellectual property cases, some of which are in law school text books, including the Estate of Martin Luther King v. CBS, 194 F.3d 1211 (11th Cir. 1999), reh. denied, 207 F.3d 666 (11th Cir. 2000) (representing the Estate); Rosa Parks v. Outkast, 329 F.3d 437 (6th Cir. 2003) (representing the band and Sony/BMG); and SunTrust Bank v. Houghton Mifflin, 252 F.3d 1166 (11th Cir. 2001), and 268 F.3d 1257 (11th Cir. 2001) (representing the publisher and author of a parody of Gone With The Wind).

More recently, he won two significant cases in the Southern District of New York, proving that ringtones were not a public performance licensable by ASCAP (representing AT&T); and that the movie *You Don't Mess With The Zohan* did not infringe copyrights in a similar story, lead character and advertising (representing Sony-Columbia Pictures, Adam Sandler and Judd Apatow), both of which wins were affirmed by the Second Circuit. In October, representing HathiTrust and The Universities of Michigan, California, Indiana, Wisconsin and Cornell in the Southern District of New York, he won the "landmark" dismissal of a suit by the Authors Guild and more than 20 other national and international plaintiffs alleging that uses by the universities without permission of millions of copyrighted books scanned in collaboration with Google infringed copyrights (on appeal to the Second Circuit); He has lectured at Harvard, Stanford, The University of Texas, Duke and other law schools and, at the request of the U.S. State Department, to artists, musicians, filmmakers and government and businesses in Russia, Belarus, Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia, Kosovo and India. In 2010, he was named Intellectual Property Lawyer of the year at a ceremony in London. He received his BA from Emory University and his JD from Harvard.

### Meaghin Burke

A. Meaghin Burke is Research Counsel in the Intellectual Property Group at the Mississippi Law Research Institute. She currently serves as chair of the Intellectual Property Section of the Mississippi Bar. She has served on the Technology and Intellectual Property Laws Study Group, convened by the Secretary of State. She received a B.S. in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of Mississippi in 2000 and a J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 2006.

### Lee Caplin

Lee Caplin is Chairman and Founder of Picture Entertainment Corporation, the multi media company that originated and Executive Produced the Academy Award®-nominated, \$125 million Sony/Columbia Pictures motion picture release "Ali," starring Will Smith. The Executor and Executive Producer of the Literary Estate of Nobel Prize Laureate, author William Faulkner, Mr. Caplin is a leader in the telecommunications and multimedia industry for over 20 years, Co-Founded Penske Media Corporation which is the owner of Variety Magazine and other major entertainment brands, and is Owner of Keystone Studios, successor in interest to Hollywood's 1st studio, founded by Mack Sennett in 1917. An attorney, entrepreneur, and educator, Mr. Caplin has published over 200 titles of illustrated children's and educational books.; his own book "The Business of Art" is a three-time international Best Seller. Mr. Caplin is Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, was honored as Founding Faculty member of California State University's high tech Monterey Bay campus, where he was instrumental in the establishment of its telecommunications department, and is an International Advisory Board member of Monterey Institute for International Studies' Center for Non-Proliferation. Mr. Caplin holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Duke University, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Virginia Law School, where his Note, "Tax Parity for Self Employed Retirement Plans," was cited in *US v. Basye* by the United States Supreme Court following his tenure as an Editor of the Virginia Law Review.

### Chris Carbone

Chris Carbone is with Loeb & Loeb LLP in New York City where he is a partner and Deputy Co-Chair of the firm's Litigation group. He has a diverse national litigation practice with an emphasis on complex commercial matters. A seasoned trial attorney, he has prosecuted and defended numerous high-stakes cases in both state and federal courts, as well as arbitration tribunals, throughout the United States. Mr. Carbone's clients range from entertainment and media companies to real estate developers, talent agencies, private equity firms, hedge funds, and other major financial institutions.

With particular expertise with advertising and marketing matters, Mr. Carbone has extensive experience litigating claims of false advertising, deceptive or misleading trade practices, as well as unfair competition, defamation, copyright, right of publicity and other intellectual property disputes. Mr. Carbone's business litigation experience is diverse and includes handling multi-million dollar disputes arising out of mergers, acquisitions, commercial real estate and asset sales, including cases involving financial misrepresentations, fraud and restrictive covenants.

### **Edwin Komen**

Edwin Komen is a partner in the Entertainment, Media and Technology and the Intellectual Property Practice Groups for Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP. He is based in the firm's Washington, D.C. office and shares time with the Century City and New York City offices. His global practice includes all aspects of copyright, trademark and unfair competition law as well as personality rights under the laws of publicity, privacy and defamation with a particular emphasis on motion picture, media, advertising and technology companies -- encompassing counseling and negotiations on both transactional and contested matters. He practices extensively before the United States Copyright Office and the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

### **Bill Luckett**

Bill Luckett is a businessman and attorney. He is a co-founder of Ground Zero Blues Club. Bill achieved Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America and as a student worked as a house painter from the ages of 16 to 25. He is a graduate of Clarksdale High School where he was a member of the Beta Club and served as President of his senior class. He is a 1970 graduate of the University of Virginia, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in American government and graduated on the Dean's List. A 1973 graduate of the University of Mississippi Law School, he currently practices with Luckett Tyner Law Firm, P.A. which has offices in Clarksdale and Sumner, Mississippi. He is a frequent lecturer at attorney and film festival seminars, and a frequent speaker for civic clubs, tourist groups and universities. One of his major practice areas is entertainment law.

His speech "A Look Inside the Delta" has been recorded onto DVD for distribution. He has appeared on the Food Network (Rachel Ray Show), CNN (People In The News), BBC, ARD, Turner South, NPR, CBS radio as well as numerous other television interviews broadcast both nationally and internationally. Moreover, he has had roles in many documentaries and features including: Last of the Mississippi Jukes, The Mighty Mississippi, Delta Rising, On The Road in America, All About Us, and Blunt Force. He has appeared in a trailer for a feature entitled Mud Dog Blues. His voice is often heard on radio ads and public service announcements. He has been mentioned in numerous magazines and newspapers across the nation.

### **Alicia Brown Oliver**

Alicia Oliver is a shareholder at Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel, P.C. in their Chattanooga office where she practices primarily in the areas of intellectual property, advertising and entertainment law. She works with clients on branding strategies and regularly handles the prosecution of trademark applications before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, as well as prosecution and defense of Opposition and Cancellation proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. She counsels clients regarding copyrights and trade secrets, as well as licensing of all types of IP. She is also regularly involved in IP litigation in both federal and state courts. Alicia's advertising and entertainment practice involves counseling clients regarding clearance of promotional materials, sweepstakes, social media campaigns, rights of publicity and related issues. She currently serves as Chair of the Tennessee Bar Association's Intellectual Property Section.

### **Michael Denniston**

Mike Denniston is Vice-Chair of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings' Intellectual Property & Competition Practice Group. His practice focuses on advising clients concerning trademark, copyright, trade secret, and related intellectual property and competition issues, as well as litigating those issues. As the lawyer with primary responsibility for trademark portfolios for several clients, he works with clients on securing, maintaining, and licensing their trademarks, as well as other intellectual property assets. Mike also has an active intellectual property and competition trial practice. His litigation experience includes prosecuting and defending requests for temporary restraining orders in trademark and false advertising cases, handling complex multiparty and multidistrict copyright litigation, handling trade secret litigation, representing parties before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board in opposition and cancellation proceedings, and prosecuting domain name dispute arbitrations under the Uniform Dispute Resolution Procedure. Mike also is active in the trademark bar. He is Secretary of the Alabama Bar Intellectual Property, Sports & Entertainment Law Section, a former chapter editor of the ABA IP Section's *Annual Review of Intellectual Property Law Developments* (2010, 2011), and a long time member of the

Editorial Board of *The Trademark Reporter*, the journal of the International Trademark Association. He is listed in *Best Lawyers in America* for Franchise Law and Antitrust Law.

#### **Drew Patty**

R. Andrew "Drew" Patty II is a member of the intellectual property section of the law firm McGlinchey Stafford PLLC. He has extensive experience in preparing and prosecuting patents in the chemical, mechanical, electro-mechanical, software and financial services fields. Drew's experience also includes preparation and prosecution of U.S. trademark registrations, U.S. copyright registrations, intellectual property licensing and joint development agreement drafting and negotiations, negotiation and preparation of software development agreements and management of intellectual property portfolios for clients with domestic and foreign intellectual property interests. Drew is a past chair of the Technology Committee of the Louisiana State Bar Association and a recipient of the Louisiana State Bar Association President's Award for his work on that committee. He frequently speaks and writes on a variety of intellectual property topics for national and regional organizations and publications.

#### **Whit Rayner**

Whit Rayner is a partner at Jones Walker in their Jackson office and is a member of the Business & Commercial Litigation Practice Group. His practice focus is in the areas of copyright and trademark registration and protection, software licensing, and intellectual property litigation and prosecution. He also represents financial institutions in commercial litigation and contract disputes. Mr. Rayner received his bachelor of arts degree from Millsaps College, magna cum laude, and a juris doctor degree from Washington & Lee University School of Law, magna cum laude. While in law school, he was Managing Editor of the Washington & Lee Law Review.

Mr. Rayner is a member of The Mississippi Bar and is Chairman of the Model State Trademark Bill Subcommittee of the International Trademark Association. He is the author of the Intellectual Property Section of West Publishing's Encyclopedia of Mississippi Law, and is the Mississippi editor of State Trademark and Unfair Competition Law. He is a former member of the International Trademark Association/CPR Panel of Neutrals.

#### **Will Wilkins**

Will Wilkins manages the Intellectual Property Group at the Mississippi Law Research Institute at the University of Mississippi School of Law where he assists Mississippi's public universities with intellectual property matters. Will also serves as the Director of the Institute and is teaching intellectual property courses at the School of Law. He received his law degree from the University of Mississippi in 1991 and a B.A. from the Sewanee in 1988.