

2012 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.

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.

Lee Ann Lockridge

Lee Ann Lockridge is a professor of law at the Louisiana State University School of Law. Professor Lockridge joined the Law Center faculty in 2005. Her research and teaching interests are primarily in intellectual property and advertising law. She came to LSU from the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where she was a visiting assistant professor during the 2004-05 academic year. From 1999-2004, Professor Lockridge was an associate in the intellectual-property section of Thompson & Knight in Dallas, Texas. Before entering private practice, Professor Lockridge served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable Eugene E. Siler, Jr., of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Professor Lockridge graduated summa cum laude from Southwestern University, earning a B.A. in chemistry. She earned her J.D. from Duke University School of Law, graduating magna cum laude in 1998. At Duke, she was an

associate editor of Law and Contemporary Problems and the community service coordinator for the Duke Bar Association. She was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 1998 and to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 2001. Before leaving private practice for academia, Professor Lockridge was named one of the "Best Lawyers Under 40 in Dallas 2004" in a D Magazine poll.

Robert C. Tucker

Bob Tucker is a partner in the firm's Business & Commercial Litigation Practice Group, concentrating in the area of intellectual property, including patent, trademark, trade secret, and copyright law, as well as technology management and other business and technical matters.

For more than 20 years, Mr. Tucker has engaged in all aspects of intellectual property law practice, including the following: preparation and prosecution of patent applications covering a wide variety of inventions; patent infringement and validity studies; trademark availability searches; the preparation and filing of trademark applications; trademark infringement studies, negotiating, drafting, and providing consultation regarding intellectual property licenses and assignments; due diligence relating to the acquisition and licensing of intellectual property; and litigation of infringement lawsuits involving patents, trade secrets, unfair competition, trademarks, and other technical issues.

Edward Ramage

W. Edward Ramage, shareholder in the Firm's Nashville office, concentrates his practice in the areas of patent and intellectual property law and litigation, including the protection and management of intellectual property asset portfolios. He is Chairman of the Firm's Intellectual Property Group.

His patent prosecution experience includes preparing and prosecuting applications for medical devices, healthcare IT systems, computer-enhanced business methods, computer software and hardware systems and networks, computer-based business methods, fabrics, film labels and adhesives, enhanced petroleum recovery, and electronic and mechanical devices. His litigation experience includes copyright, patent, trademark and trade dress litigation in federal and state courts. He is licensed to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and is admitted to the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and Federal Circuit Court of Appeals.

He graduated from Harvard University cum laude with a degree in Geological Sciences, and received his Engineer (Master's) degree from Stanford University, where he studied at the Stanford University Petroleum Research Institute. He was employed as a Petroleum Engineer with Shell Offshore, Inc. in New Orleans, Louisiana for four years before attending the Vanderbilt School of Law. While at Shell Offshore, Inc., he designed and programmed the strategic planning program for calculating the comparative economics and production of all oil and gas reserves for all divisions of the company, and designed and programmed the database program for the monitoring and reporting of wellhead pressures for production platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. He also was employed as a Petroleum Consultant for two years by Warren K. Kourt & Assoc. in Palo Alto, California.

Russel Primeaux

Russel Primeaux is a partner in the Baton Rouge office of Kean Miller. He joined the firm in 1997 and leads the intellectual property (IP) practice, which includes trademark, patent, copyright and trade secrets. Russel is a Registered Patent Attorney and is licensed to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. He represents clients in obtaining protection for the various forms of IP and in litigation involving infringement. Russel also has experience in the representation of clients in the licensing, sale or evaluation of IP.

Russel handles IP matters spanning a wide range of technologies, including biochemistry, business methods, chemical processes, computer printer designs, digital hardware designs, electronic devices, medical devices, microprocessor design, electric power transmission, gas chromatography, oil exploration, software, thermodynamics, and waste treatment. On numerous occasions, he has served as an expert witness in patent infringement litigation in cases involving both utility patents and design patents.

Russel teaches patent law at the LSU Law Center. He served on the Faculty of the LSU Law Center Trial Advocacy Program from 1995 to 1997. Russel served as Chairman of the Intellectual Property Section of the Louisiana State Bar from 1997 to 1998. He is also a former Marine artillery officer and Judge Advocate. Russel is listed in the The Best Lawyers in America (Woodward/White, Inc. 2003-2012 Editions) in the areas of Patent Law, Trademark Law, Litigation - Intellectual Property, and Litigation - Patent. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Greater Baton Rouge. Russel is also listed in the Who's Who Legal USA: Trademarks 2006.

David Lange

David Lange is the Melvin G. Shimm Professor of Law at Duke University, where he has been a member of the faculty of the School of Law since 1971. Prior to joining the Duke faculty he worked in radio, television, and motion picture production, and as a practicing lawyer with an emphasis in media law. He acted subsequently for a number of years as counsel to a leading North Carolina law firm with an emphasis in copyright, trademarks, and unfair competition and related intellectual property matters.

At the Duke Law School he teaches courses in intellectual property, copyright, trademarks, and unfair competition, and entertainment law (including motion picture production, finance, and distribution). He speaks, writes, and lectures frequently in these fields. He has testified by invitation before Congress. He gave the Twenty-Second Annual Donald Brace Memorial Lecture to the United States Copyright Society at Columbia Law School in 1992. Most recently he has completed the third edition of a co-authored casebook in intellectual property published by West Publishing Company in 2007, as well as the co-authored manuscript for a book on intellectual property and the first amendment, which has been accepted for publication by Stanford University Press. An internationally recognized authority in his areas of specialty, he has also taught and lectured in Europe, Australia, and Asia. He has served as a pro bono consultant to the Vietnamese National Office of Industrial Property and to the National Copyright Office of Vietnam. He is a founding member of the ABA Forum Committee on the Entertainment and Sports Industries and served on the Forum Committee's initial Governing Board. He served as a member of the Board of Advisors to the Reporter of the American Law Institute's Restatement (Third) of Unfair Competition. He has also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of The Copyright Society of the United States.

Paul Sykes

Paul Sykes is a partner in the law firm of Bradley, Arant, Boult, Cumming, LLP where he represents businesses and individuals in a wide variety of intellectual property and technology-related legal matters. As a member of both the Intellectual Property and Competitive Practices and the Litigation Practice Groups at the firm, Paul counsels clients in the acquisition, licensing and protection of intellectual property rights, and he litigates those rights in the state and federal courts. Paul has been peer-selected for inclusion in the Best Lawyer's in America and Alabama Super Lawyers in Intellectual Property Law. Birmingham Magazine recently listed him as a "Top Attorney" for Intellectual Property.

Drew Patty

R. Andrew "Drew" Patty II is a member of the intellectual property section of the firm. He has extensive experience in preparing and prosecuting patents in the chemical, mechanical, electro-mechanical, software and financial services fields.

Drew's chemical patent practice experience includes patent preparation and prosecution in the fields of organo-metallic chemistry, microbiocidal agents, catalyst reactions, pharmaceuticals and their intermediates, and bromine chemistry, amongst others. His mechanical and electro-mechanical experience includes filings for medical devices, pumps and pumping systems, mechanical seals, marine engines and related systems, lightwave-based signal transmitters and detectors and off-shore drilling equipment, amongst others. Drew's experience also includes business method and software-based patent application preparation and prosecution in the areas of mortgage-based investment products and related methods, insurance-based investment products and related methods, and software-based systems for improving computer network security. He frequently renders legal opinions for clients seeking to assess their freedom to use technology or brand names in the United States, or to assess the validity of the intellectual property rights of others.

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. He also has served as an expert witness in support of intellectual property litigation.

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.

He is admitted to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office and is a member of the Louisiana, North Carolina and Texas Bars.

Cameron Abel

Cam joined the Tollison Law Firm in 2006. His practice includes general, business, and commercial litigation as well as white collar criminal defense and family law. He serves on the Mississippi Bar Professionalism Committee and chairs the Professionalism CLE subcommittee.

A native of Oxford, Cam was a Delta journalist before becoming a technology coordinator and nationally-licensed teacher in the public schools in Drew for nine years. He continues his work as an educator serving as an adjunct professor and supervising attorney for the UM School of Law Transactional Law Clinic. The clinic partners with the Harvard Law School Transactional Clinic to provide pro bono legal services to nonprofit organizations and low income entrepreneurs. In addition, he has presented continuing legal education in the area of school law.

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.

Neil Olson

Neil Olson serves as Chief Legal Officer for FNC, Inc. He is the former president and CEO of the California Market Data Cooperative (CMDC) and joined FNC in 2000 when the company acquired CMDC. Prior to CMDC, Olson served as a senior officer at two southern California savings and loans and practiced real estate and financial institution litigation law. Olson earned his Juris Doctor degree from Southwestern University School of Law. He is also a graduate of Pomona College in Claremont, California.

Rush Hicks

Rush's undergraduate degree in music is from Ole Miss, and he received his law degree from Mercer University in 1981. Since that time, he has practiced law in Nashville on historic Music Row representing artists, songwriters, artist managers, business managers, record companies, record producers, booking agencies and publishing companies. He is currently on the faculty at Belmont University in Nashville where he teaches such courses as Music Licensing, Artist Management, Intellectual Property and Legal Issues in the Music Industry.