



RECORDING ACADEMY™ ANNOUNCES NEW ADVOCACY COMMITTEE LED BY HIT SONGWRITER SUE ENNIS AND FIVE-TIME GRAMMY® WINNER LALAH HATHAWAY

LEADING MUSIC CREATORS WILL CHAMPION ARTIST'S RIGHTS ON CAPITOL HILL AND BEYOND AS ACADEMY PREPARES FOR LARGEST GRASSROOTS MUSIC ADVOCACY DAY

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. (SEPT. 9, 2019) — Today, the Recording Academy™ announced songwriter **Sue Ennis** and five-time GRAMMY® winner **Lalah Hathaway** will lead the Academy's National Advocacy Committee. Serving as the voice for all music creators in Washington, D.C., working closely with the Academy's Advocacy team, the committee will continue to build on the momentum of the transformative [Music Modernization Act](#) as the landmark legislation approaches its one-year anniversary.

The first order of business for the committee is the Academy's annual [District Advocate Day](#). Taking place on Oct. 2, more than 1,500 music creators nationwide will meet with their members of Congress to push for further protections for artists as part of the largest grassroots advocacy day for music in the nation.

"We are at an inflection point in the music industry," said **Deborah Dugan**, President/CEO of the Recording Academy. "The MMA was a giant step forward, and now we need to seal the deal in protecting intellectual property and defending creators against exploitative radio practices. I can't think of a more qualified committee to take on these challenges than this one."

Sharing seven GRAMMY Awards and 25 nominations among them, the Committee serves as a key conduit to the creative membership. The choice of Ennis and Hathaway to co-chair the Committee demonstrates the Academy's efforts to advance the interests of all creators and provides the committee with a full range of expertise and insight into the process of music creation.

Other Committee members include GRAMMY-winning composer, producer, and singer **Claudia Brant**; GRAMMY-nominated artist **Terry Jones**; GRAMMY-winning engineer **Emily Lazar**; GRAMMY-nominated artist **Rico Love**; and GRAMMY-nominated producer and songwriter, as well as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Academy **Harvey Mason Jr.** President/CEO of the Recording Academy **Dugan** and Chief Industry, Government & Member Relations Officer, Advocacy & Membership **Daryl Friedman** will serve as ex-officio members.

Some of the key issues the Advocacy Committee will take on include:

- Encouraging passage of the **CASE Act**, which establishes a small claims court for copyright cases, including independent artists and songwriters who don't have the unlimited resources needed to protect their work against infringement



- Establishing a performance right on terrestrial radio, the only platform in the United States that uses another person's intellectual property without permission or compensation
- Encouraging the Department of Justice to ensure fair compensation for songwriters during its review of the consent decrees that regulate how songwriters are paid
- Protecting arts funding to invest in the next generation of music creators
- Protecting intellectual property as the United States negotiates and ratifies new trade agreements

ABOUT THE RECORDING ACADEMY

The Recording Academy represents the voices of performers, songwriters, producers, engineers, and all music professionals. Dedicated to ensuring the recording arts remain a thriving part of our shared cultural heritage, the Academy honors music's history while investing in its future through the GRAMMY Museum®, advocates on behalf of music creators, supports music people in times of need through MusiCares®, and celebrates artistic excellence through the GRAMMY Awards®—music's only peer-recognized accolade and highest achievement. As the world's leading society of music professionals, we work year-round to foster a more inspiring world for creators.

For more information about the Recording Academy's ongoing advocacy work, visit www.grammy.com/advocacy, follow [@GRAMMYAdvocacy](https://twitter.com/GRAMMYAdvocacy) on Twitter, and "like" [GRAMMY Advocacy](https://www.facebook.com/GRAMMYAdvocacy) on Facebook.

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