



23RD ANNUAL ENTERTAINMENT LAW INITIATIVE® EVENT & SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF WRITING COMPETITION

GRAMMY® WEEK EVENT WILL ALSO HONOR THE BLACK ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS LAWYERS ASSOCIATION WITH SERVICE AWARD; VALEISHA BUTTERFIELD-JONES TO LEAD ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

WHO: The 23rd annual **Entertainment Law Initiative® Event & Scholarship Presentation** has announced the winner and runners up of its Writing Competition:

Winner

Sophia Sofferman
University of Miami
Miami, Fla.

Paper Title

"It's My [Recapture Right], And It's Now or Never..."

Runner-Up

Evan Biegel
St. John's University
Queens, N.Y.

"Tuning the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Musical Work Infringement"

Runner-Up

Alberto Vargas
University of Chicago
Chicago, Ill.

"Bare Possibility or Reasonable Opportunity? In Defense of a Defendant- Conscious View of 'Access' in a Digital Age"

The 23rd Annual **Entertainment Law Initiative® Event & Scholarship Presentation** will take place during GRAMMY® Week in a new virtual format, gathering the nation's most prominent entertainment attorneys to promote discussion and debate about the most compelling legal issues facing the music industry today. The event will honor the **Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association** — a nationally recognized leader in legal education and professional development within the United States for lawyers and professionals in the entertainment, sports and related industries—with the **2021 Entertainment Law Initiative Service Award**. This honor is awarded to an attorney or organization that has demonstrated a commitment to advancing and supporting the music community through service. **Sophia Sofferman**, the winner of this year's **Entertainment Law Initiative Writing Competition** along with runners up **Evan Biegel** and **Alberto Vargas** will also be recognized during the virtual event. Other program participants include Recording Academy® Chair and interim President/CEO **Harvey Mason jr.**, Entertainment Law Initiative Executive Committee Chair **Laurie Soriano**, Entertainment Law Initiative Executive Committee member **Ken Abdo (Fox Rothschild LLP)**, and Recording Academy Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer **Valeisha Butterfield-Jones**, who will lead a roundtable discussion that will explore the current state of diversity in the music industry.



The Recording Academy would like to thank all the supporters that made this program possible, especially our Platinum Presenting partners **Fox Rothschild LLP** and **Universal Music Group**, and our Platinum level partners **First Horizon/IBERIABANK**, **Greenberg Traurig, LLP**, and **Spotify**.

WHAT: The Entertainment Law Initiative event is the nation's preeminent gathering for entertainment attorneys and the music business community, and it provides a forum for the industry to honor its legal practitioners, hear from thought leaders, and support promising law students interested in entertainment law. This year's event is invite only. For sponsorship of this or future events please contact Neil Crilly at neil.crilly@recordingacademy.com for information.

This annual program also includes a Writing Competition that invites law students to write a 3,000-word paper on a compelling legal topic facing the music industry today. The contest is open to Juris Doctor (JD) or Master of Laws (LLM) candidates currently enrolled at any U.S. law school. A \$10,000 scholarship will be awarded to the author of the winning paper, and a \$2,500 scholarship will be awarded to the two runners-up. The winning student and two runners-up will be recognized during the 23rd Annual Entertainment Law Initiative Event & Scholarship Presentation to provide a forum for interaction with successful attorneys in the field. Earlier this month, of the Entertainment Law Initiative hosted an Info Session for students interested in submitting for this year's Writing Competition to learn from previous student winners, in addition to gaining career advice from top entertainment lawyers. The Recording Academy will present the GRAMMY Awards on Sunday, March 14, 2021, on the CBS Television Network from 8:00–11:30 p.m. ET/5:00–8:30 p.m. PT with Emmy Award-winning "The Daily Show" host and comedian Trevor Noah serving as host. For complete Entertainment Law Initiative writing contest rules, visit www.grammy.com/entertainment-law-initiative. For further questions, email eli@recordingacademy.com.

WHEN: Friday, March 12, 2021 at 11 a.m. PT

WHERE: Available to view online

MEDIA RSVP MANDATORY: tra@finnpartners.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: If you are interested in covering this event, please reach out to the above address **no later than 6 p.m. PT on Friday, March 5.**

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 Academy, please visit www.grammy.com. For breaking news and exclusive content, follow @RecordingAcad on [Twitter](#), "like" Recording Academy on [Facebook](#), and join the Recording Academy's social communities on [Instagram](#), [Tumblr](#), and [YouTube](#).

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CONTACTS

Bradford Bridgers
Recording Academy
Bradford.Bridgers@recordingacademy.com

Rebecca Sitorus
FINN Partners
rebecca.sitorus@finnpartners.com