



News Release

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Thomas Jefferson School of Law to Present "Blurred Lines" Forum on Trolling for Patents

The attorney representing singer Robin Thicke in the pending legal battle over Thicke's huge summer hit "Blurred Lines" will be one of the featured panelists at an October 18th forum at Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Presented by TJSL, in association with the Entertainment Law Society, the Center for Law and Intellectual Property and the Intellectual Property Law Association, the forum is titled "**From Patents to Porn: The #Blurred Lines Between Intellectual Property #Trolls and Legitimate Intellectual Property Enforcement.**" The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required at entertainment@tjssl.edu.

In the patent world, a troll is an entity that obtains patents for inventions it never intends to market. Instead, it lurks in the shadows to zap purported infringers with patent infringement suits. In the copyright world, so-called "sample trolls" are entities that create nothing, but control the music copyrights of artists and exist to find infringing samples or uses to extort payment. At the heart of any "trolls" business model is the litigation of controlled IP rather than the invention of useful inventions or the creation of great music or art.

This forum, featuring four highly accomplished patent and copyright lawyers, will explore the phenomena of IP trolls, from the world of technological invention to the world of film and music. From technological inventions under patent law to pornography and musical works under copyright law, this provocative forum is expected to generate heat on a cutting-edge issue bedeviling IP law today.

The panelists will include: Stephen D. Rothschild, Esq., a partner with King, Holmes, Paterno, & Berliner, the firm representing Thicke, Pharrell Williams and Clifford Harris, Jr., in the "Blurred Lines" action; Fred Hernandez, Esq., Of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo, P.C.; David Branfman, Esq., of the Branfman Law Group, P.C.; and Joseph Re, Esq., Litigation Partner with Knobbe Martens.

TJSL Professor Brenda Simons, who has practiced IP law, will be the moderator. TJSL Professor K.J. Greene, who has represented a number of prominent clients in the music industry, and TJSL student Chanel DiBlasi have organized the event. The law firms of Mintz Levin and Knobbe Martens are co-sponsors.

The event, which will take place in Room 229, from 4 - 6 p.m., will offer 1.75 of MCLE credit. A reception with the speakers will follow.

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