



## News Release

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### Thomas Jefferson School of Law Students Join Funk Legend George Clinton's Legal Team

*Clinton in Legal Fight to Own Copyrights to His Music*

SAN DIEGO - Three Thomas Jefferson School of Law students are working as interns with the legal team representing legendary funk musician George Clinton. The interns are Jillian Kates, Pauline Isidro and Jeff Berneking, who are all fellows in TJSL's Intellectual Property Fellowship Program.

The leader and founder of Parliament-Funkadelic (P-Funk), Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Clinton has become a leading figure in the fight to re-claim the copyrights of his biggest hits from the record companies. The copyrights of Clinton's and many other 70's artists songs begin to expire in 2013, and a pitched-battle is underway for the artists to win the copyrights to their own songs back from the record companies.

"Like many African-American artists, he found his copyrights appropriated by labels and publishers--a topic I was among the first to analyze in legal scholarship," said TJSL entertainment law professor K.J. Greene, who has extensive experience representing artists in the music business.

Clinton came to the TJSL campus on December 6 to meet with the students and Professor Greene. "I'm really glad to be here," said Clinton. "We need this kind of professional advice in this complex area of copyright. (TJSL) can help us get a grip on some of the court rulings."

Clinton is involved in multiple cases involving his music copyrights, and is meeting with a lot of resistance.

"I want to be known as the man who brought it to the attention of America about the copyright issues," Clinton said in a post on TJSL's Facebook page. "That's what I would like my legacy to be, to have turned people on to the fact they need to fight for the rights to their music."

"It's pretty surreal meeting Mr. Clinton," said Jeff Berneking. "This is a chance to apply what I've learned in IP classes!"

Pauline Isidro says it is "mind-blowing to meet a music legend like George Clinton. He has the DNA for all of the music I love."

"It's really just an amazing opportunity to work with someone who is a pioneer of artists' rights, as Mr. Clinton is," said Jillian Kates.

The chain of events that led to the association between Clinton and the law school began at a conference TJSL hosted in November 2012, "Music Copyright Terminations: The Ticking Time Bomb Has Arrived," which featured top entertainment law attorneys, many of them TJSL alumni.

“Our students are getting the experience of representing a musical legend on some the most cutting-edge copyright issues out there,” said Professor Greene. “I am proud of these students and the stand they have taken for copyright justice.”

Flashlight 2013 is the campaign to help musicians restore their copyrights  
<http://www.flashlight2013.com/>

About the [TJSL Intellectual Property Fellowship Program](#):

The [IP Fellowship Program](#) provides superior access to intellectual property law in the classroom and in the field when compared to other IP-intensive programs of study. It is supported by substantial scholarship awards for qualified students. Fellows are exposed to IP issues from the first day of law school through their legal writing classes. In the second and third years, they can work one-on-one with professors on intellectual property-related scholarly projects and have the opportunity to work for academic credit with companies, law firms and public entities that deal with intellectual property issues.

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