Copyright versus creativity? UT professors discuss the law and art behind the pop song’s court battle.
Patrick Morrison ('16) took a bit of UT Law with him to Machu Picchu during his recent volunteer trip to Peru. (And don’t miss the marriage proposal he inadvertently captured during this snapshot.) Read more about his experience on page 22.

PHOTO BY PATRICK MORRISON ('16)

FEATURES

10 If Mozart Were a Trial Lawyer
Student and classically trained pianist Melissa Joy Baxter draws a unique comparison between music composition and creating compelling closing arguments.

BY MELISSA JOY BAXTER

12 Between the #BlurredLines
Where does creativity end and copyright begin? Two UT Law professors join two UT music professors to discuss the Marvin Gaye-versus-Robin Thicke copyright trial and the implications it may hold for the entertainment industry.

BY CASSANDRA J. SPROLES AND ROGER HAGY JR.

15 On the Record with Joel Katz
Meet Billboard’s top-ranked entertainment attorney, who has represented everyone from James Brown and Willie Nelson to Mary J. Blige and Justin Timberlake.

BY LUIS RUUSKA

DEPARTMENTS

2 From the Dean
3 Omnibus
8 Deliberation
24 Report on Giving
32 Colleague
33 Syllabus
From the Dean

I remain incredibly proud to serve as your dean, and this semester, I am back in the classroom, teaching my first class since arriving here in July. Teaching our talented students is not only energizing, but it also informs my work as dean of a college that celebrates academic excellence in the Volunteer spirit.

Our faculty and students continue to innovate in the classroom. For example, Joy Radicer’s criminal law class brings in UT theater students to play the role of clients, creating realistic trial scenarios (p. 7). And Kris Tobin and Brad Morgan’s legal research class partners 1L students with Mark Stephens (’79) and his Community Law Office to give our students practical lawyering skills from year one of their legal studies (p. 22). Our faculty are producing impressive scholarship, too, with recent articles published in such journals as the Michigan Law Review, the UC Davis Law Review, and the George Washington Law Review, as well as books published by prestigious presses, such as Oxford University Press.

Achieving all of this excellence requires Volunteers of many kinds: talented students, superb faculty, dedicated staff, and loyal alumni and friends. In November, we launched our ambitious campaign to raise $45 million by 2020. And thanks to alumni and friends like you with the “soul of a Volunteer,” to quote Buck Lewis (’80), we are well on our way to that goal, with more than $40 million already pledged. Due to the decrease in state funding, your financial support is more important than ever in helping us fulfill our core mission of educating and producing some of the best lawyers and leaders in the country.

You hear it often: Every gift of any size matters. You just never know how much the Vitale Scholarship (p. 7), and Kris Tobin and Brad Morgan’s legal research class brings in UT theater students to play the role of clients, creating realistic trial scenarios (p. 7), and Kris Tobin and Brad Morgan’s legal research class partners 1L students with Mark Stephens (’79) and his Community Law Office to give our students practical lawyering skills from year one of their legal studies (p. 22). Our faculty are producing impressive scholarship, too, with recent articles published in such journals as the Michigan Law Review, the UC Davis Law Review, and the George Washington Law Review, as well as books published by prestigious presses, such as Oxford University Press.

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You hear it often: Every gift of any size matters. Remember, every gift no matter how small matters. That’s why we invite you to consider the many ways to give, such as through endowed gifts of $25,000—and you can pay that pledge over a period of five years? That’s just $5,000 per year to leave your unique mark on UT Law. Plus, if you and four fellow alumni decide to fund such an endowment, each person could pay $1,000 each year. Best of all, together you would make an immense impact at your alma mater.

With your investment in UT Law, we are poised to exceed expectations and lead among our peers in innovative and valuable teaching, scholarship, and service to our community, state, and beyond. We can continue to attract the best scholars and teachers, create an endowed fund to support outstanding faculty teaching and scholarship by pledging a gift of $125,000—and you can pay that pledge over a period of five years? That’s just $5,000 per year to leave your unique mark on UT Law. Plus, if you and four fellow alumni decide to fund such an endowment, each person could pay $1,000 each year. Best of all, together you would make an immense impact at your alma mater.

With your investment in UT Law, we are poised to exceed expectations and lead among our peers in innovative and valuable teaching, scholarship, and service to our community, state, and beyond. We can continue to attract the best students while maintaining our commitment to a diverse, welcoming, and close-knit college family.

The College of Law has already raised more than $40 million toward its goal during the four-year quiet phase of the campaign.

Co-chaired by George T. “Buck” Lewis (’80) and Richard L. “Riki” Rose (’74), the campaign is part of an overall push by UT toward becoming a top 25 public research university.

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

SCHOLARSHIPS. Support for student scholarships and loan forgiveness programs will help UT Law recruit a diverse and talented student body and ease graduates’ debt load as they begin their careers.

PROGRAMS. UT Law’s programs, centers, journals, and clinics offer students real-world experiential learning opportunities to prepare them for legal practice. Support for these programs will help UT Law expand its reach, improve its educational offerings, and encourage outstanding scholarship and service.

FACULTY. The college needs support for its talented faculty, including endowed chairs, professorships, and research support, all of which helps UT Law recruit and retain the best faculty in the nation.

Learn more: law.utk.edu/journey
UT Law among top 10 low-debt law schools

The College of Law places seventh in the U.S. News Short List for “10 Law Schools that Leave Grads with the Least Debt.” Members of UT Law’s Class of 2014 completed law school with an average debt load of $66,201, compared to a nationwide average debt load of $111,899 for all 2014 law school graduates in the United States.

College of Law ranks 15th on Super Lawyers list

UT Law is one of the top fifteen law schools producing the most “Super Lawyers,” according to a 2015 ranking released by The National Jurist. UT ranks fifteenth among all law schools in the nation, with 14.9 percent of the college’s alumni named Super Lawyers. Among the public law schools on the list, UT Law ranks seventh.

UT Law launches LLM program in business law

The college is accepting applications for its first advanced law degree, the Master of Laws (LLM) in US business law. International lawyers with a JD or its foreign equivalent will be able to complete the 24-credit program in one academic year. Graduates will be eligible to sit for the Tennessee and New York bar exams. law.utk.edu/LLM

Program allows UT students to earn law, bachelor’s degrees in 6 years

Undergraduate students of the University of Tennessee can now earn both a bachelor’s degree and law degree in six years, one year less than what is normally required.

UT 3+3 is a new accelerated degree program offered by UT’s College of Law and College of Arts and Sciences. In the program, students complete three years of approved undergraduate coursework in the College of Arts and Sciences. Following their third year, participating students admitted to the College of Law become full-time, first-year law students.

The first year of law study will count toward a student’s law degree and also toward the completion of his or her bachelor’s degree. Two additional years of law study follow, after which a student earns a juris doctor degree. In addition, during their first year of law school, UT 3+3 students will be eligible for undergraduate financial awards, including the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship or a Federal Pell Grant. law.utk.edu/3plus3

PHOTO BY PATRICK MURPHY-RACEY

Omnibus

STRONG CONNECTION

Brian Krumm (standing) presents a lecture during his Representing Enterprises course. UT Law students participated in the course on campus, while Renmin University students participated in China via live video. The students also engaged in real-time simulated transactions.
FACULTY RETIREMENTS

Riba Best
Joe Cook
Amy Hess
John Sobiski
Paula Williams

The Journal Enters the Twenty-First Century, "Real Property, Trusts and Estate Law Journal"


"Indulge Lawyer," chapter, The Relevant Lawyer - Reimagining the Future of the Legal Profession, ABA Publishing


GEORGE KUNEY

"All Writs in Bankruptcy and District Courts: A Dozen of Looking Off the Review," The Review of Litigation, University of Texas Bankruptcy in Practice (2015, co-authored)

American Bankruptcy Institute

Experiencing Remedies, West: Academic Publishing

GARY PULINELLI, "Happy Together?" The Unwieldy Conglomeration of Federal and State Protection for Sound Recordings," Tennessee Law Review


DOMESTIC SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

WENDY BACH, workshop facilitator, Ocliva: Law Review Writer's Workshop, NYU Law School

IRIS GOODMAN, "The Place of the Faculty in Japan's Political Thought," Columbia University Seminar on Law and Politics

JOAN HOPMANN, "Curating and Crowd- igning: Creating a Sustainable Investment Market," For the Markets, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

MICHAEL HIDSON, "Revisiting Landgraf Legal Education Reform and the Lawyer's Code," Wake Forest Law Review symposium

BECKY JACOBS, panel moderator, UT Water- shed Symposium, "Horizons of Inequality: Where We Are and Where We Are Going"

LUCY JEWEL

"The Dark Side of Cognitive Rhetoric," Psych- ological Persuasion Conference, University of Virginia

"Old School Rhetoric, and New School Cognitive Science," LegalED Igniting Law School Teaching Conference, American University, Washington College of Law

MICHIELLE KIVON

"Evaluating Regulatory Business," University of Baltimore Tax Symposium

"The Influence of Cultural Differences on Es- tablish, Tax, and Employment Benefit Planning," ABA Tax Section Meeting, Chicago

DON LEATHERMAN


"The intersection of Subchapter KAND the Consolidated Omnibus Reorganization, Bank- ruptcy and Workshops Committee, ABA Tax Conference meeting

BOB LLOYD, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, "Lost Profits: A Case Study in Reasonable Certainty and Discounting," Litigation Counsel of America, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants

LEXE ALEX


GLENN REYNOLDS, "Second Amendment Limitations," Georgetown Law Center

DEL MONICO

"The Evolving Dean: Water Act," UT Water- shed Symposium

"Flourishing in the Digital Age: Interpreting the Law," UT Water- shed Symposium

"Youth Supporting and Training for Parents with Exceptional Children

PAULA SCHAEFER, "Tips for Finding Profession- als for Lessons Hiding in Plain Sight in the E- volution Casebook," LegalED Igniting Law School Teaching Conference, American University, Washington College of Law

GEREST STEIN, "Harmonizing Chinese Real Es- tate Law with the Theory of Law and Develop- ment," Conference for Association for Law, Property, and Society, University of Georgia School of Law

VAIJOON PARK, panels, "The U.S. Feminist Judgments Project: Collaboration as a Femin- ism's Lessons Hiding in Plain Sight in the Evo- lution Casebook," LegalED Igniting Law School Teaching Conference, American University, Washington College of Law

The Influence of Cultural Differences on Est-ablish, Tax, and Employment Benefit Planning," ABA Tax Section Meeting, Chicago

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"The intersection of Subchapter KAND the Consolidated Omnibus Reorganization, Bank- ruptcy and Workshops Committee, ABA Tax Conference meeting

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THE INFLUENCE OF CULTURAL DIFFERENCES ON ESTABLISH, TAX, AND EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLANNING


"Flourishing in the Digital Age: Interpreting the Law," UT Water- shed Symposium

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VAIJOON PARK, panels, "The U.S. Feminist Judgments Project: Collaboration as a Femin- ism's Lessons Hiding in Plain Sight in the Evo- lution Casebook," LegalED Igniting Law School Teaching Conference, American University, Washington College of Law

"Easing Regulatory Bottlenecks," University of Mary- land Francis King Carey School of Law

"De-
Deliberation

To whom much is given, much will be required

BY CASEY DUHART (’16)

To whom much is given, much will be required (Luke 12:48). If you have heard that line of wisdom, you know it means we are held responsible for what we have. If we have been blessed with talents, wealth, knowledge, time, and the like, it is expected that we benefit others.

As a law student at UT, much has been given to me, so in turn, I am required to give back, and there are some extraordinary people who have given much to me. Maude Riseden Hughett (1909) was the first female graduate of UT Law and the first female law school graduate in the South. Can you imagine the courage that it took for Ms. Hughett to do what seemed impossible during that time? Because of her sacrifice, today as a female, I can learn, be challenged, and compete with my male peers in the law school environment. Lincoln Blairkey was the first black student to enroll at UT Law. I have heard stories about how he had to study in a separate section of the library and how he had to sit apart from his peers in his classes. Although he did not graduate from UT Law, because of his sacrifice, today I can learn, be challenged, and compete with my white peers in the law school environment. Finally, I want to acknowledge RBJ Campbelle Jr. (’56), the first black student to graduate from UT Law. These extraordinary people—and there are more that I could mention—have given much to me, so it is required of me to give to those who will follow me.

In the present, much has been given to me by UT Law, and my time here has been a dream come true. So many professors have made a lasting impact on my life. Dwight Aarons taught me how to diligently prepare for class. He taught me how to dissect a case—word by word. And I will never forget how Ben Barton gave our class a “football locker speech” before we took our Torts I final. He literally acted like he was our coach in the locker room. He did not know that at the very same time he was giving his speech, my husband was having back surgery. My children were three and four years old, so needless to say, trying to get them to day care and worrying about my husband’s surgery, I needed to hear that speech. I felt like Superwoman when I got that exam in front of me! Then, you have Regina Lambert (’01), who has encouraged me to excel in everything I have attempted at UT Law. In my opinion, she is the biggest cheerleader for student success. I could go on and on about how much has been given to me by faculty and staff. I tell you: I am required to give back to UT Law because so much has been given to me!

The Knoxville legal community has also been beyond sacrificial in giving much to me. I have learned “the practice of law” from the Federal Defenders Services of East Tennessee under the leadership of Beth Ford (’77); the attorneys at Egerton, McAfee, Armistead, and Davis; the Knox County District Attorney’s office; the Tennessee Valley Authority; the attorneys at Kennerly, Montgomery, and Finley; and Judge Deborah Stevens (’88). Many of these attorneys have taken me under their wings, and much has been given to me through their patience and willingness to see me excel in my understanding of the legal system. Therefore, it is required of me to give back to my legal community.

If you have walked through the doors at UT Law, much has been given to you. Although you might complain about professors you had or the student loans you are possibly still paying back, one thing is for sure: much has been given to you. Because much has been given to you, much will be required of you. There are a variety of ways in which you can fulfill that requirement. Whether you choose to use your talents, wealth, knowledge, time, and the like, I urge you to give, so that students like me can blaze trails for the next group of talented lawyers who will follow us.

Duhart is a UT Law student. She presented a version of this essay at the 125th Anniversary Gala in November.
It was my first mock trial competition, and I was receiv-
ing a crash course on how to prepare a closing argument. “Connect the dots,” my coach
said. “Apply the law. Draw the inferences.”

I listened dutifully, but in the end, my closing argument was nothing more than a
lackluster recitation. I created a closing argument that connected the dots, but the
result was mousy and analytical. I applied the law, and the jury yawned.

Until I thought about Mozart. What would Wolfgang Mozart do with a closing ar-
gument? If the great composer had to construct an argument for a jury, what would
it sound like? Often, trial lawyers must reinvigorate their closing arguments during the
course of a trial, depending on what evidence is admitted and excluded. Mozart, the
boy genius who wrote the overtures to operas on the mornings of their premieres, was
no stranger to this blend of procrastination and forced improvisation. Yet, the struc-
ture of his work was always stable. The Mozartian framework is emotionally appealing,
sterling in clarity, consistent in structure, and brilliantly simple—everything a closing
argument should be.

As a classically trained pianist, I entered law school understanding the fundamental
principles of an artistic performance. The application of those principles to trial advo-
cacy became my strength. After placing as a finalist in a mock trial competition my first
year, I earned a spot on the National Trial Team and aced my closing arguments in
class because of a simple mantra: “What would Mozart do?”

To explain how I applied principles of artistic performance to trial advocacy requires a
primer on sonata-allegro form (which most lawyers know nothing about unless they
took Advanced Music Theory in college). Sonata-allegro form, a framework for musical
composition that was the dominant structure of the classical period from 1750 until
1820, is still in use today. The structure consists of musical ideas that are presented
simply in a musical space, referred to as an

1 exposition

ends. If this section doesn’t have an element of peacefulness to
it, the audience will be left feeling bereft and disappointed.

2 development

moment. This is where each musical idea blends and ultimately
are resolved harmoniously (and often with a splash of
flair) in a musical section known as a recapitulation. This may
be followed by an ambitious, artistically challenging coda,
and the entire work is sometimes preceded by an introduction.

3 recapitulation

Recapitulation: Harmony, harmony, harmony. There can be
no dissonance. This is the resolution, the “why I should win”
moment. This is where each musical idea blends and ultimately
ends. If this section doesn’t have an element of peacefulness to
it, the audience will be left feeling bereft and disappointed.

4 coda

Coda: This is the flashiest part of the statement. You’ve heard
of this concept before as “primacy” and “recency,” and Mozart
employed it long before it was written in the Mozart trial test.

5. Now you have their attention. It’s time for you to contrast, com-
pare, and elaborate upon the details, but be careful to not ove-
do it. The development section should not comprise more than
30 percent of your “musical”—legal—composition. It should be
a fascinating exploration of the initial themes that have already
been introduced. If you are ever going to present a “what if?”
argument to your audience, this is your moment.

6. By the end of this section, your audience should be humming
with excitement. Einstein reportedly said Mozart’s music was
“a reflection of the inner beauty of the universe.” I don’t know a
single trial lawyer who wouldn’t have the same aspirations for a
closing argument.

And by the way, this post was written in sonata-allegro form.
If you’re still reading, it worked.

If Mozart
were a trial lawyer

By Melissa Joy Baxter (’17)

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Melissa Joy Baxter (’17), a UT Law
student and classically trained pianist
Where does creativity end and copyright begin? Two UT Law professors join two UT School of Music professors to discuss the Marvin Gaye-versus-Robin Thicke copyright trial and the implications it may hold for the entertainment industry.

“NO MORE PRETENDIN’, ‘CAUSE NOW YOU’RE WINNIN’…”

Or…not. (“Hey hey hey.”)

“I hate these blurred lines!” sings pop star Robin Thicke. And now he may truly hate them, or rather his 2013 hit song “Blurred Lines,” which put him at the center of a bitter copyright dispute in 2015.

The “Blurred Lines” battle pits Thicke and his co-writers—producer Pharrell Williams and rapper Clifford “T.I.” Harris—against the family of the late Marvin Gaye, the celebrated soul singer who left a lasting musical catalog following his death in 1984.

The Gaye family claims “Blurred Lines” infringes on the copyright of Gaye’s 1977 disco-funk hit, “Got to Give It Up.” Following buzz that their song sounded remarkably similar to Gaye’s song, the “Blurred Lines” artists filed a lawsuit to proactively determine that there was no copyright infringement. Gaye’s family countersued, represented by a legal team that was led by attorney Richard Busch and included UT Law alumna Sara Ellis (’11).

So far the legal battle has tilted in favor of Gaye’s family, with the latest court ruling awarding $5.3 million and 50 percent of future royalties to the soul singer’s survivors. Unsurprisingly, counsel for Thicke and his co-writers appealed the decision in December 2015.

The case is complex and raises many issues about songwriting, copyright infringement, creativity, and the impact of a public persona in a legal dispute. Two UT Law professors and two UT music professors recently discussed the case and what it means for music and copyright law.

CAN YOU COPYRIGHT COWBELL?

“For me, the fascinating thing is the way the lawyers for the Gaye estate presented these two catchy pop songs to the jury, using a very logical and analytical framework,” says Associate Professor of Law Lucy Jewel, referring to the fact that the case was based not on the actual performance of the songs but only on the musical composition—the sheet music.

A musicologist for the Gaye family pointed out at least five alleged similarities between the sheet music for the two songs, including the recurrence of an A7 chord, similar successions of notes, similar beginning tones in phrasing, and similar melodic contours.

But what about the performance elements that make these songs sound similar? It was, after all, the similarity in the sound of the two songs that first got people discussing the possibility of copyright infringement.

“Can you copyright cowbell?” asks Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition Brendan McConville, citing the percussive sound found on both tracks.

In this case, the short answer is no.

A performer’s voice (a high male falsetto), the percussion (a similar beat and cowbell sound), and backing vocals are not considered part of the copyright for a piece of sheet music. Though the two songs may have a similar sound due to some of these elements, they are not protected in copyright law.

“I think it’s also interesting to note that [the Gaye family] didn’t have a digital recording protected under copyright law,” says Brian Krumm, associate professor of law and director of the Business Law and Trademark Clinic. “That might have made a difference as well. If you copyright both the sheet music and the digital recording, you probably have greater rights than just the sheet music itself.”

Basing the lawsuit on just the sheet music may have also put an unusual burden on the jury, according to Andrew Sigler, lecturer of music composition. “They’re trying to analyze and have a sense of something they can only get through the musicologist. So it really comes down to how well that expert witness can argue.”

McConville points to his music analysis classes and the subjectivity involved. “Analysis is interpretation, so the jury had to follow the
analytical position of this person and that person, and they’re not able to make that determination themselves. Whereas in our classes, we may have twenty different perspectives on a piece. But the interpretation of the piece is subjective, and [in the trial] that was isolated to a few people’s opinions.”

Krumm and Jewel agree that in cases such as these, jurors are going to be heavily influenced by the advocacy of the attorneys and what they do with the evidence presented. However, they both argue that one major factor in the case had nothing to do with the songs themselves, but instead came from how the jury felt about Thicke’s bad-boy behavior and erratic testimony.

**FALSUS IN UNO, FALSUS IN OMNIBUS**

During the trial, jurors were shown footage of Thicke’s and Pharrell’s depositions. The footage, which was released to the public in October 2015, conflicted at times with their courtroom testimony. Just as damaging, though, was how the video reflected on Thicke personally. During the deposition he admitted that he was high or drunk every time he did an interview to promote “Blurred Lines.” Thicke also made the startling claim that Pharrell was the sole creator of the song and that he, again, was high or drunk during the song’s creation.

“This really is a cautionary tale for entertainment lawyers,” says Jewel. “Entertainers can be narcissistic; they can get into all kinds of nasty things like crime and drugs.”

Perhaps the most damning testimony was Thicke’s response when asked, “Do you consider yourself an honest man?” He simply responded, “No.”

“In legal advocacy we actually call this falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus, meaning that if you lie once, we can’t believe you for anything,” Jewel says. “I think that was fatal to their side of the case.”

**STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS**

Recently, several other cases of copyright infringement in the music industry have been settled out of court. In January 2015 it was reported that UK crooner Sam Smith had given 12.5 percent songwriting credit on his hit song “Stay With Me” to American rocker Tom Petty, after publishers for Petty’s 1989 song “I Won’t Back Down” noticed similarities in the melodies of the choruses. Songwriters for “Stay With Me” said they were not familiar with the Petty song but acknowledged the similarities.

“That’s the interesting thing about copyright law,” Jewel says. “You can commit infringement by mistake or subconsciously. You don’t actually have to intentionally copy or plagiarize the song.”

Petty said in a statement on his website, “All my years of songwriting have shown me these things can happen. Most times you catch it before it gets out the studio door, but in this case it got by.”

“Tom Petty, as a composer, knows that we’re all standing on the shoulders of giants. It’s all an aggregate,” says Sigler, who points out that Igor Stravinsky, one of the most influential composers of the twentieth century, was once quoted as saying, “A good composer does not imitate; he steals.”

“He knew very well the art, or rather the nature of his art, which is building upon previous epochs,” says Sigler.

It’s well documented that Gaye himself wrote “Got to Give It Up” after being inspired by the Johnnie Taylor hit “Disco Lady.” Gaye’s song was even originally titled “Dancin’ Lady.”

**PURE, BRIGHT LINE?**

So legally, where does inspiration end and copyright begin? McConville asks if there can ever be a “pure, bright line” in these cases.

“Since music electronics and recording mechanisms come into play, it’s making it much more complicated,” says Krumm.

According to Sigler, up until about fifty years ago, music was a “fixed sheet of music, open to interpretation.” Now, sheet music is usually written after the fact, and the performance of the song—the recorded artifact—has become more important, making lawsuits like this one tricky.

Though there may never be a “pure, bright line” legally, the music professors agree that these types of cases shouldn’t stifle the creativity of artists.

“We’re continuing to evolve in how music is produced,” McConville says. “Musicians today just have to work hard to come up with creative, unique ideas.”

Stars adorn the walls of the College of Law. No, not the kind that fill the night sky, but the framed records of musicians whose songs have filled the airways and contributed to American pop culture. These silver, gold, and platinum records serve as a permanent testament to some of music’s greatest hits, and despite the differences in genre and era between the artists, they all share one thing in common: the attorney behind the musicians. That attorney, **JOEL A. KATZ (’69)**—who gave those framed records to the college from his collection and for whom the college’s law library is named—is Billboard’s top-ranked entertainment attorney and one of UT Law’s most prominent alumni.
TOUGH WITH A HEART OF GOLD

A Queens native, Katz attended Hunter College in New York City and graduated with an economics degree in 1966. Like his father, Katz aspired to become a lawyer, and that summer he arrived in Knoxville in pursuit of a law degree.

To finance his legal education at UT, he took on two jobs: a part-time position at the college’s library and a full-time, six-days-a-week position from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. as a hotel night clerk. Though Katz was able to keep up with his studies, his punctuality suffered, leading to a confrontation with his contracts professor, Colonel R. McDonald Gray.

“He was a very prim and proper military guy, and he had a rule that if you were late three times, you got an automatic ‘F,’” explains Katz. It was early in the semester when Katz reached his third tardy, a fact the colonel announced to the entire class. “I was so embarrassed,” Katz says. Still, he asked Gray for permission to sit in the class and listen for the rest of the semester so that he would be better prepared to retake the class. The colonel obliged. After class, Gray privately interrogated Katz about his frequent tardiness. Once Katz explained his night clerk position, which only allowed him an hour or two of sleep at dawn, he saw an astounded look on the colonel’s face.

“He offered me an hour or two of sleep at dawn,” Katz says. “Tired? I put them all on retainer for $2,000 a month, every one of them,” he says. “And Willie said to them all, ‘This is our lawyer, this is our guy. He’s going to look after us.’ And they became lifetime clients.” Katz’s client base continued to grow in size and prestige. He has represented Michael Jackson, Justin Timberlake, Mary J. Blige, Jamie Foxx, George Strait, Kenny Chesney, Ludacris, Jimmy Buffet, Julio Iglesias, TLC...and the list goes on and on.

In time, Katz realized the amount of work on his plate was too much for any one attorney. In 1981 Katz founded his own firm, Katz, Smith & Cohen, which he ran until 1998, when the firm joined Greenberg Traurig.

“My theory about practicing law is that it’s an art form, and it’s also a business. But without clients, you don’t have a business. So the most important thing in the world are clients and treating them well, treating them like family, and making sure that they understand everything you are doing,” Katz says. “I never tell people I’m a lawyer. People ask, ‘What do you do?’ and I say, ‘I’m an architect surrounded by lawyers. I create things, build them, and then my lawyers close them up.’ That’s the way I look at my job.”

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THE CAREER OF JOEL KATZ IS A FAITHFUL TESTAMENT TO THE AMERICAN DREAM.

During law school, Katz faced hardships and nearly flunked out. At the beginning of his career, he found himself with no clients in an Atlanta office “the size of a restroom stall,” barely living off his savings. However, it was his resilience and entrepreneurial spirit—not to mention a bit of luck—that transformed him into an entertainment mogul with unparalleled experience in the world’s most fickle business.

THE MAN WHO WOULD BE COUNSEL

A few years after graduation, Katz was a small-time attorney in Atlanta sharing a secretary with three other lawyers in a cramped office with no clients. A former student of Katz’s from Georgia State—where Katz had been a lecturer on urban law—told him about a client who was looking for a lawyer who had never practiced entertainment law.

“He told me, ‘We represent an entertainment superstar, and he’s been burned by the people in New York and the people in California. He’s from Augusta, Georgia, and it only wants a lawyer from the South,’” recalls Katz. Upon learning that the client was the legendary James Brown, Katz found it hard to conceal his amazement. “In 1971, James Brown was the equivalent of Taylor Swift and Justin Bieber all rolled up together,” he says.

Katz tried to read up on entertainment law as much as he could before his meeting with the Godfather of Soul at the end of the week. When he arrived at Brown’s downtown hotel suite, the star was having his hair styled. “He took one look at me, and he knew exactly what I was: a guy who didn’t know nothing.” Brown hired Katz on the spot.

Soon after, the two headed to New York, where Brown hoped to sign a contract with the then new record label PolyGram, a joint venture by Philips and Siemens. However, Brown’s demands were steep.

“He said he wanted a $5 million advance against royalties, he wanted a jet plane, and he wanted to own the master recordings and the publishing rights,” says Katz. “I went through the list with the [PolyGram lawyer], and he looks at me and says, ‘Are you completely out of your mind? This is the stupidest, crudest, most egregious list of things I’ve ever heard in my career’.

“I knew at that moment why James Brown had hired me: because no lawyer who knew anything about this business would ever go in and ask for the things he wanted.”

Nevertheless, Katz was invited to dinner with the PolyGram lawyer later that evening, where, with a fair amount of negotiating, most of Brown’s demands were met with small modifications. Soon, Brown became PolyGram’s first recording artist. At the press conference announcing the deal, Brown profusely thanked Katz, telling the press that Katz had “just made the biggest deal for an artist in the history of the recording music business.”

THE ART OF LAW

Upon his return to Atlanta, word of Katz’s unbelievable deal began to spread through the entertainment industry. Only a few days later, Katz found himself in Austin, Texas, with Willie Nelson, who wanted to utilize the skill of “the Godfather’s lawyer,” to sell his album, Headed Stranger, to Columbia Records. Through Nelson, Katz was introduced to George Jones, Tammy Wynette, Waylon Jennings, and Kris Kristofferson.

“I put them all on retainer for $1,000 a month, every one of them,” he says. “And Willie said to them all, ‘This is our lawyer, this is our guy. He’s going to look after us.’ And they became lifetime clients.”

Katz’s client base continued to grow in size and prestige. He has represented Michael Jackson, Justin Timberlake, Mary J. Blige, Jamie Foxx, George Strait, Kenny Chesney, Ludacris, Jimmy Buffet, Julio Iglesias, TLC...and the list goes on and on.

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In recent decades, Katz has expanded his areas of practice to international issues.

“The great thing about my life is I’m a very inquisitive person, and I got blessed with the ability to see the world and meet people from all sorts of different places, all sorts of different cultures... whose lives have affected so many other people,” he says. “I feel very blessed with this ride that I’ve had.”

A lawyer now for more than forty years, Katz says he’s mindful about taking care of himself and choosing how busy his schedule is.

“As you get older, you just learn things. You can’t just sit on the side-lines and watch life go by. You’ve got to live it and do everything that you can do based on your education, the experience that you have, and based on what you think you can do well,” Katz says. “I’ve also learned that you treat everybody the same in life. You don’t have a business. So the most important thing in the world are clients and treating them well, treating them like family, and making sure that they understand everything you are doing,” Katz says. “I never tell people I’m a lawyer. People ask, ‘What do you do?’ and I say, ‘I’m an architect surrounded by lawyers. I create things, build them, and then my lawyers close them up.’ That’s the way I look at my job.”

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Playing on Uneven Ground

Pat Snyder ('98) on her journey to legal practice, fighting for those in need, and her marriage to Grammy-winning singer/songwriter Janis Ian

BY WHITNEY HEINS

nashville criminal defense attorney Pat Snyder ('98) was in a rural county courtroom in 2003. She, along with her client, about a dozen state attorneys, a number of case workers, and a judge were furiously trying to schedule the case. With all those parties involved, it wasn’t going the way Pat had hoped.

As usual, Pat wasn’t playing on a level field. The state had a team of people and a bevy of resources to fight its case. She had herself and a client with little money.

Then, in front of everyone, the judge paused, looked up, and caught Pat’s eye.

“Congratulations,” he said.

The judge had read that Sunday’s New York Times, in which Pat was the subject of a trailblazing article. Her marriage to famous folk singer/songwriter Janis Ian was the first same-sex wedding to be featured in the newspaper’s wedding announcement pages. Because same-sex couples weren’t yet on equal footing with heterosexual couples in US courts, the two said their vows in Canada. It would be another twelve years before their marriage would be recognized in their home country and they would have the same rights as heterosexual married couples.

Pat and Janis met fourteen years earlier when friends in common matched them up. While the two had mutual friends, they didn’t seem to share much else. At the time, Pat (not yet a lawyer) was a single parent working two jobs to support herself and her daughter, Pier. Janis was a touring musician trotting all over the globe. Pat was an introvert and Janis never met a stranger. Janis loved to cook, while Pat’s idea of a home-cooked meal involved unwrapping something and popping it in the microwave. Still, their lunch at a local Nashville restaurant lasted eight hours and turned into dinner. The next two weeks turned into an intense courtship. The pair spent every hour together, much of the time stretched out on the couch coming up with a list of relationship deal-breakers.

“We had been in a lot of relationships and knew what was important to us,” says Pat. It turned out the two had a lot in common, and their differences only made each other stronger. They learned from one another and encouraged each other to go after their dreams. One night after a long day at work, Pat was lamenting her frustration with her current position in the television news archives at Vanderbilt University. Janis listened carefully and gave her a simple response: “You should go to law school like you always wanted.”

“I can’t go to college. I have to put Pier through college,” Pat said.

“Pier graduated two years ago,” Janis reminded her. And so, that was that.

Pat chose UT Law and enrolled at the age of forty-seven. Later, she would establish the Lambda Legal Society Scholarship for returning students like herself. Janis toured more than usual to help pay for Pat’s education. Despite one-half of the couple being on the road and the other living away from home, the pair managed to see each other often. “We have a house in Nashville and an apartment in Knoxville,” Pat explains. “Janis would come up to Knoxville on the weekends, or I would go to Nashville.”

When Pat entered the College of Law, she knew she wanted to be a lawyer but had no idea what kind. It was her criminal justice and ethics classes that sparked her interest in helping those on uneven ground get a leg up. “A federal public defender came to one of our classes and told us ‘no one should face the power of the state alone.’ That got me thinking.”

Indeed, Pat has come to learn just how powerful the state is in terms of resources. “As a sole practitioner with 99.9 percent of clients who are indigent, you can’t pay to get the same investigative work and the same quality of background work that the state has at its fingertips,” she says. “You can’t do it all by yourself.”

That’s why after graduation Pat opened her own criminal law firm where she can practice law the way she wants and for whom she wants, often taking pro bono cases. “I hope I’m a voice for the voiceless because otherwise, why else be a lawyer?” she says.

Although Pat and Janis had been together for a quarter-century, they had few rights as a couple in the United States. They lacked rights for hospital visits, the ability to obtain family health coverage, inheritance rights, parental roles of each other’s children, and protection in case the relationship ends.

“When reaching our age, you start planning things like retirement, putting together a will. It makes a world of difference to know that your partner is going to be provided for if something happens to you,” says Pat. “That’s something heterosexual couples have taken for granted.”

But on June 26, 2015, that changed when the US Supreme Court legalized gay marriage nationwide. Tears erupted from Pat’s and Janis’s eyes when they heard the news. They could now be sure the other would be taken care of if their time together was cut short. They now knew if the other was severely harmed, they could see each other in the hospital without the law standing in the way. Finally, nothing could keep them apart.

“It was such a relief,” Pat says. “Legally, we can finally be normal people.”
Every law student—past and present—can talk about those times when they feel stressed, overwhelmed, and overworked. But underneath the thousands of pages of reading and dozens of assignments on their plates lies the real reason why most students enter law school in the first place: to help people.

Kris Tobin’s Legal Research II class uncovers this reason early at UT Law by giving first-year students the chance to help real people in the real world with their work. Through a partnership with the Knox County Public Defender’s Community Law Office (CLO), Tobin’s students research dozens of issues that are then applied to real cases that ultimately improve peoples’ lives.

“I want my students to have the experience where they can figure out what the practice of law really is,” says Tobin, assistant professor and reference/faculty services librarian of the college’s Law Library. “I feel really blessed to be able to help students grapple with a real-life project.”

Most law students don’t encounter real-world experience in the first year of school, at all.

“This kind of exposure (to real problems) is rare and unheard of,” says Tobin. Tobin got the idea for a first-year experiential learning class nearly five years ago. When she approached Brad Morgan (’05), UT’s pro bono coordinator, for help, he was immediately excited.

It was Morgan’s strong belief in the power lawyers have to influence people’s lives that drew him away from a large firm to academia so he could instill this. When she approached Brad Morgan (’05), UT’s pro bono coordinator, for help, he was immediately excited.

“Professor Tobin’s project found a way to get first-year students involved in real legal work that not only benefited us as students, but made a significant impact in an individual’s life,” said Shelisha Steele (’15), who now works as a law clerk in Atlanta. “My experience overall has not only helped me develop as an attorney, but also as a person. I intend to provide pro bono services throughout my legal career.”

Tennessee alone has one million residents each year who aren’t be able to afford meaningful access to a lawyer. For this reason, the Tennessee Supreme Court has an aspirational goal for each lawyer in the state to provide fifty hours of pro bono service per year, an expectation imprinted on UT’s aspiring lawyers.

“Students walk away with an appreciation of the service they have done for the Community Law Office and the clients,” says Tobin. “And they learn that when they become practicing lawyers, they’re expected to help less fortunate and marginalized clients.”

Tobin and Morgan say UT is the only law school they know to include experiential learning in the first year, but the idea is catching on. They have presented the curriculum at several conferences and workshops and wrote a chapter for a forthcoming book on experiential learning in the law school curriculum.

And no doubt, they’re helping shape the next generation of lawyers who will speak of law school as well worth their time.

“It really want our students to appreciate where they are and what they can give to others,” says Tobin.
Clockwise from top left: A Norwegian boy participates in a trust activity where children work together to carry a person down the line; a llama at Machu Picchu; children from Peru, France, and Denmark laugh together; the streets of Cusco; Patrick Morrison with his camera at the Huaca Pucllana ruins in the Miraflores district of Lima (photo by fellow counselor Daniela Madriz); and a groundskeeper takes a break at the summit of Machu Picchu.

**I WAS SEVENTEEN** when I traveled to Stockholm, Sweden, to serve as a junior village counselor with CISV International, a nonprofit organization that promotes peace education for children throughout the world.

While in Stockholm, I helped plan an activity where the children work together to build a city. The kids poured their hearts and souls into it. They then walked around to see what everyone else had created, but the activity also involved someone feeding a lie to each group: another group had damaged their city. The kids then discussed whether they wanted to get revenge by damaging the other cities—and some did. The activity simulated how easily conflict can be created and the difficulty of reaching peace after a conflict. After the activity, the kids discussed the exercise, and one boy in particular just “got it”—the whole purpose of CISV clicked with him. He recognized that bad things happen in the world, but there is room for people to do good and make a positive impact. It was at that moment that I knew I wanted to go to law school so I could advocate for others and make a difference in the world.

Fast-forward almost a decade later, to my last semester at UT Law. This winter, I worked for several weeks as one of five individuals in charge of a CISV village program in Lima, Peru. Instead of museums and typical tourist activities, our camp featured cultural presentations from the different countries represented and activities that introduced the children to topics like stereotypes, race, gender, disability, trust, peace, war, and diversity. And any time you have seventy-two people living together in close quarters, conflict is bound to happen. However, it was exciting to help the kids learn to work together, learn from each other, build trust, and enable them to become active members of society.

Little did I know that I would connect my legal knowledge and experience to a camp focused on the educational development of eleven-year-olds. At one point during the camp, two participants got into a physical altercation, and I was tasked as the investigator to get to the bottom of the conflict. I treated it as a legal proceeding: I interviewed the parties, talked to witnesses, and gathered evidence. I also faced cultural and language barriers throughout the program and used the negotiation and communication skills I’ve learned to overcome these obstacles. Because of both UT Law and CISV, I know I’m now prepared to successfully overcome similar challenges during my legal career.

The world needs our help, abroad and in our local communities. As an aspiring lawyer and a Tennessee Volunteer, I seek to make the world a better place as I advocate for those who need a helping voice, and I plan to commit my life to pro bono service and the educational development of children—our future leaders.
Thank you to all UT Law alumni and friends who made philanthropic gifts to the college in 2015. Donor support is critical to the success of our law school. It allows us to strive for excellence in everything we do and to provide the best legal education possible for our students. Again, thank you for all your support!
Report on Giving

Harold C. Warner Society

As dean, Harold C. Warner brought the college into our own hands. To recognize his work, this society recognizes individuals and businesses that have established an endowed fund at UT Law.

CLASS OF 1985

T. Robert Hill
Anne and Norma Aukst

CLASS OF 1986

James H. Bradley
Alice and Sid McMurtry

CLASS OF 1987

Michael and Leslie Forman
Charles W. Forlidas

CLASS OF 1988

Keith G. Brown
James and Evelyn Woodard

CLASS OF 1989

Robert L. Godwin
Dorothy Wilson

CLASS OF 1990

Karen and William L. Harpe, Jr.

CLASS OF 1991

Connie G. Trobaugh

CLASS OF 1992

Susan F. Johnston

CLASS OF 1993

Barbara Muhlbeier

CLASS OF 1994

David and Evelyn Oberman

CLASS OF 1995

Mary E. Abernathy

CLASS OF 1996

Jennifer Barnhardt

CLASS OF 1997

Troy and Sarese Svihl

CLASS OF 1998

Eric A. Adolphson

CLASS OF 1999

Eric A. Adolphson

CLASS OF 2000

John C. Hine

CLASS OF 2001

Troy and Sarese Svihl

CLASS OF 2002

Rickie F. Wade

CLASS OF 2003

Angela D. Smith

CLASS OF 2004

Elizabeth Tipton

CLASS OF 2005

Richard A. Loring

CLASS OF 2006

Richard A. Loring

CLASS OF 2007

Joel and Kane Katz

CLASS OF 2008

Richard A. Loring

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CLASS OF 2019

Richard A. Loring

CLASS OF 2020

Richard A. Loring

CLASS OF 2021

Richard A. Loring

CLASS OF 2022

Richard A. Loring

CLASS OF 2023

Richard A. Loring

CLASS OF 2024

Richard A. Loring

CLASS OF 2025

Richard A. Loring

CLASS OF 2026

Richard A. Loring

CLASS OF 2027

Richard A. Loring
In 1890, UT Law opened with only nine students and a diverse and inclusive law school community. Alumni and friends who give $1,000 to $2,499 to the College graduate and the first black graduate, respectively. They helped establish the college’s foundation as a...
Janet Hatcher, interim director of admissions and financial aid, has been with UT Law for thirty-six years, making her one of the college’s most familiar faces.

A Knoxville native who grew up in Alcoa, Hatcher began working at the college in 1979 as a temp and was later hired full-time as a receptionist. A few months later she was moved to the Office of Admissions, which later became the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid, where she has spent the bulk of her career as the financial aid coordinator. In 2015, Hatcher was promoted to her current position, where she aids in recruiting qualified students to join UT Law’s ranks.

In her more than three decades of service, Hatcher says the college’s atmosphere has transformed in a variety of ways. “It’s warmer, friendlier, and more community-oriented than it was when I first began working,” says Hatcher. “The students are happier, and the faculty and the students are more open and receptive with each other, too.”

Throughout her time at the college, Hatcher says the lifetime connections she has made with students have resulted in some of her fondest memories. “The connections that I’ve made have been nice and now you see the kids of some of the alumni coming through law school, which is rewarding because you see the learning continuing on,” she says.

Students have also remembered Hatcher fondly since graduating from the college. Ronald Attanasio (’85) recalls that Hatcher’s support was critical during his time in law school. “For the two-and-a-half years I was in law school, and to this day, Janet has been a friend, a counselor, and a staunch supporter,” says Attanasio. “Now, thirty years later, I still enjoy the practice of law and very believe that I have made a difference for at least one particular non-profit and in the lives of many others—and without Janet, I simply would not have been in a position to have done so.”

Stephanie L. Slater (’90) says she will never forget when Hatcher came to her aid in the weeks leading up to her second year of law school. A system error had caused Slater to be incorrectly labeled as an undocumented student and also listed a missing transcript from a university she had not attended, which caused her financial aid package to be rescinded. “[I was] distraught and daunted...Fortunately I ran into Janet Hatcher,” Slater says. “She calmed me down, sat me in a chair, and in one phone call cleared up the whole mess. All these years later, I have not forgotten what she did for me that day. The college is very fortunate to have her.”

Hatcher says the highlight of her career has been developing relationships with students past and present, like Attanasio and Slater. “I’m not in it for myself, I like helping the students. Financial aid can be hard, but the challenges have been fun and rewarding,” she says. “I like puzzles, and getting all of this stuff to work together is like fitting the pieces of a puzzle together. When I can see the kids walk across the stage at graduation, that makes it all worthwhile. That’s what it’s all about.”

BY LUIS RUUSKA

The puzzle solver

Janet Hatcher, interim director of admissions and financial aid, has been with UT Law for thirty-six years, making her one of the college’s most familiar faces.

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UT... LLAMA?
Yeah, we thought a llama would catch your attention. Get the full story on page 22.

PHOTO BY PATRICK MORRISON ('16)