

Leon D. Bass

Of Counsel

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LEON D. BASS, Of Counsel, works with businesses large and small across multiple industries and has built an exceptional intellectual property practice that blends traditional IP and entertainment law counsel and assessment with IP and related business and entertainment litigation. Through nineteen years of practice, Leon has built a robust reputation locally and nationally for his legal counsel in trademark, copyright, trade secret, entertainment, sponsorship and sweepstakes law, as well as litigation in those arenas. Leon has also served as Adjunct Professor at Otterbein University, teaching a law class that focuses on copyright, trademark, and business law in the context of the music and entertainment industries. He regularly practices in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Leon has built a unique practice that blends a traditional corporate intellectual property law practice with an entertainment practice that serves the needs of Fortune 500 companies to small local entities, as well as the unique needs of entertainment entities, concert promoters, festivals, film producers, authors, artists, record labels and musicians. Leon has a proven track record of managing and counseling on copyright, trademark and other IP issues, litigating IP and entertainment law disputes, and drafting and negotiating contracts in the IP and entertainment space, including licensing, recording and publishing, music venue, festival and concert, and manager and agent agreements.

A musician himself, Leon is a member of the Columbus band, Grassinine, who regularly performs at local charity functions. He is also the co-founder of the annual "Music in the Round" event which benefits the Marafiki Aids Orphanage in Kenya as well as other charities.



Practice Groups:

Intellectual Property, Trademark, Copyright & Trade Secret, Litigation, Ethics & Professional Responsibility

Bar/Court Admissions:

Federal

Southern District of Ohio, Northern District of Ohio, U.S. Virgin Islands

State

Ohio

Year First Admitted to Practice Law:

1998

Education:

The Ohio State University College of Law, Michigan State University (1995)

Professional Affiliations / Recognitions:

Columbus Bar Association, U.S. Virgin Islands Bar Association

Representative Experience

- Representation of large craft brewery in trademark infringement matter.
- Defense of concert promoter in trademark infringement matter.
- Successful defense of trademark infringement and USPTO opposition proceedings brought by large corporation in federal district court (Texas) against local business client.
- Obtained judgment in favor of client invalidating Plaintiff's long owned and well known industry specific registered trademark, receiving national trade press.
- Successfully obtained dismissal in defense of multi-million dollar breach of concert promotion agreement for U.S. national "Rock Never Stops" tour, featuring Quiet Riot, Ted Nugent, Night Ranger and Slaughter.
- Successfully defended multiple law suits for copyright infringement and breach of contract by national recording artist against our record label client.
- Successfully represented a large concert venue in a civil fraud case.
- Representation of commercial photographer in copyright infringement case against large national companies involving hundreds of copyrighted photographs.
- Served as Expert Witnesses in copyright and trademark cases against Microsoft and for another software company.
- Representation of Academy Awarding Winning film "Dallas Buyer's Club" and other films in copyright infringement matters.

Achievements and Awards

Listed as a Rising Star by Ohio *Super Lawyers* (2011, 2012)

Ranked as "Excellent" by *AVVO* (2014-2017)

Top Lawyer by *Columbus CEO* (2015-2016)

Legal Elite - Best for IP & Entertainment Law - Ohio (2016)

Professional Memberships and Community Service

- Columbus Bar Association, Professional Ethics Committee

- Appointed by the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands and the President of Virgin Islands Bar Association to the 2013-2014 Virgin Islands Ethics and Grievances Committee
- Virgin Islands Bar Association; Chair (2014), Member, Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee (2010-2013)
- Capitol Square Rotary; President and Board of Directors, multiple committee leadership roles
- Musicon, LLC, President and Chairman of the Board
- Hocking College, Board of Advisors - Music Program
- GrooveU - Advisory Committee
- Columbus Community Festival, Board Member, Entertainment Selection Committee
- Music in the Round, Founder and Chairperson of annual charity concert
- Greater Columbus Local Music Awards; Founder and Executive Producer

Publications

- Editor, "Making It" by Matthew Crumpton, Esq. and Tristan Kinsley (book on music industry)
- Author, "Everything You Need to Know about Trademark Protection and Registration"
- Author, "Why You Can't Copyright Your Song If You Have Already Written It!"
- Author, "Takin' Care of Business: A Band's Basic Business Guide"
- Author, "Will You Face The Music? Music Downloading 101"
- Author, "Brand due diligence saves millions" Columbus Business First, May 14, 2010
- Author, "When to Consider Trademark Protection and Registration" CWS Newsletter, Vol. 1, 2009

Speaking Engagement Venues

- The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law Sports & Entertainment Law Association
- Capital University Law School Sports & Entertainment Law Association
- Midpoint Music Festival
- AllBiz Music Conference

- Undercurrents Radio

Additional Professional Experience

- Adjunct Professor, Otterbein University (2011-2015): Instructor of course in Music Law; extensive coverage of copyright law, trademark law, contract law as well as music industry legal and business issues applicable to recording, publishing and touring
- Ohio Attorney General, Columbus
- Rhino Records, Legal and Business Affairs, Los Angeles, CA
- Famous Music Publishing Company, Legal Affairs, Los Angeles, CA