

October 9, 2018

Executive Decision

NEWSLETTER

An Entertainment Industry Organization



President's Corner

Dear Members and Friends,

I am excited to announce that our next panel discussion will be held on October 9, 2018 entitled "Executive Decision." We have assembled a panel of top female executives who will discuss subjects such as legislation, asset monetization, changing trends, business practices, gender equality and much more. Panelists include Lori Soriano (King, Holmes, Paterno, Soriano), Rene Merideth (Exploration), Ana Ruiz (Drive Music Publishing) and Merlene Travis (Merle's Girls Music) with Paula Savastano (SSA Music) as the moderator.

As you may know, women have played a vital role at the CCC and I am glad that we continue to value equality, diversity, and inclusivity. Please support the CCC by attending this event. There's still time to register, but act now.

On another note, the CCC in partnership with the AIMP (Association Of Independent Music Publishers) will be conducting its Music Industry Toolbox on October 25th at Mears Hall in Hollywood from 3-8pm. We will have representatives from companies that provide vital services to the music community such as royalty collection, data management, and so much more. It's free for students and \$10 for everyone else.

Additional information about these events can be found on our website: www.theccc.org.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next CCC event.

Sincerely,
David Quan
President 2018-2019

Suggested Reading

"Advocating Equal Opportunity for Women in Music"

Written by Catharine Wood — Planetwood Studios, LLC.

[View Here](#)

Moderator

Paula Savastano | President, SSA Music

Specializing in Copyright, Licensing, Royalties and Publishing, Paula Savastano has worked in the music business for more than 25 years. As a classically trained musician, she began her career in Opera Management, but quickly made the switch to the popular music realm. She has worked in administrative management and intellectual property departments for several notable companies including Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI), Spirit Music Group, Rykomusic, Cherry Lane Music, Musical Heritage Society and Turn up the Music.

For several years, Paula's knowledge and experience has been sought after by publishers and record companies to assist them with audits, royalties and copyright issues. After significant and continued demand, she started her own company, SSA Music, which provides financial, legal, auditing, licensing and royalty consulting services to a diverse clientele ranging from independent musicians to major music publishers and record companies. In recent years, SSA Music has expanded to offer catalog pitching and placement for a select clientele. SSA Music Catalog has grown to include close to 1500 titles from nearly all genres of music, ranging from classical, jazz, pop, rock, alternative, rockabilly and varying cross-over genres. The majority of the SSA Music catalog is available as one-stop/all-in licensing, and has instrumental mixes and stems, as well as full tracks available. Recently, SSA Music has directed the focus of its business to pairing music supervisors with quality music to fit their musical needs.

Paula has been an active speaker at educational conferences and universities around the country for more than 10 years. She has held the position of Adjunct Professor in the Music Industry Departments at Drexel University and William Paterson University. She is active member of the California Copyright Conference (CCC), National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), National Association for Recording Industry Professionals (NARIP), Association of Independent Music Publishers (AIMP), Women in Music (WIM) and Sigma Alpha Iota (Professional Music Fraternity). She is also an active musician, performing in the greater New York, Philadelphia and Los Angeles metropolitan areas, as a freelance flautist.

Panelists

Rene Merideth | Co-Founder and COO of Exploration, a Media Management and Technology Company

Rene Merideth is the Co-Founder and COO of Exploration, a media management and technology company headquartered in Los Angeles. She is primarily responsible for copyright, licensing, and royalties. Exploration is proud to be the company of choice to compile and administer the metadata identifying much of the world's most important media.

Rene graduated from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee with a degree in Music Business, after which she quickly climbed the music publishing ranks. Starting as a Mechanical Licensing Manager at Windswept, she has since served as Director of Licensing at Bug Music, Director of Licensing at BMG Chrysalis, and VP of Operations at AdShare.

Rene has been a speaker and writer at events and publications produced by Billboard, National Association of Recording Industry Professionals (NARIP), the Association of Independent Music Publishers (AIMP), California Copyright Conference (CCC) and others. She is a member of NARAS, ASCAP, AIMP, WIMN, and is a board member of the California Copyright Conference.

In addition to her industry success, Rene is a renowned rugby photographer having shot hundreds of matches worldwide, including the Rugby World Cup in 2015. She is a powerful and respected voice in a male-dominated industry, and a proud advocate of women's empowerment and equality.

Laurie Soriano | Partner, King, Holmes, Paterno & Soriano

Laurie Soriano is a partner in the law firm King, Paterno & Soriano, LLP. She is a music attorney, representing a diverse range of creative individuals and companies in the music industry, including Carly Simon, Carole King, Twenty One Pilots, Frank Ocean, Travis Scott, Train, Bon Iver, Marilyn Manson, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Rick Nowels, Toby Gad, Billy Steinberg, Randall Poster, George Drakoulis, Sub Pop Records, Princess Cruises, and many others.

Laurie started her career at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, where as a partner in the firm she served as the Head of the firm's Music Department and Co-Chair of the firm's Entertainment Industry Practice Group.

She received undergraduate degrees from the University of Pennsylvania (BA in English from the College of Arts and Sciences, and BS in Economics with concentration in marketing from the Wharton School of Business). She received her law degree from the University of California, Davis. After graduation she served as a law clerk to Hon. Harry Pregerson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Laurie is also a poet; her book of poetry entitled "Catalina" was published by LummoX Press in 2011.

Ana Ruiz | Founder/CEO, Drive Music Publishing

Ana Ruiz is the Founder/CEO of Drive Music Publishing, Inc., a complete music management company. Prior to DRV, Ana was Manager of Music Services at GRF, a business management firm specializing in the entertainment industry. In her career, Ana has represented various legacy clients such as Dolly Parton, Neil

Diamond, Herbie Hancock, Billy Joel, Prince, Jackson Browne and many others. Her extensive experience has provided her a unique perspective on the changing industry, specializing in monetization and royalties. She is a consultant for lawyers, labels, business management firms, managers, and artists, and is spending more time transitioning clients from deals, creating growth plans for catalogs, and answering questions from independents – the variables are endless.

Ana is an active member of National Academy of The Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) and The Latin Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (LARAS), California Copyright Conference (CCC), and the Association of Independent Music Publishers (AIMP).

Ana is also a proud supporter of LightHopeLife, Inc., an organization dedicated to research, outreach, education, volunteering, and numerous aspects of mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

Merlene Travis | Co-President, Merle's Girls Music

Merlene Travis, born and raised in Southern California, has had a 38-year career in music publishing. Starting in the music industry as a secretary at Chappell Music set her on a professional path in which she has both enjoyed and thrived.

Following her stint at Chappell, she moved on to Columbia Pictures Music Group in both administrative and creative positions. These positions provided varied opportunities to experience Film and TV music, catalogue acquisitions, song placement in various projects, as well as finding, signing and managing talent, most notably, Jill Colucci and Norman Saleet. Merlene found her niche in the detail that comes with copyright administration, holding various positions at Screen Gems, NEM, Filmtrax, Warner/Chappell Music, Windswept and as Vice President of Music Publishing in the Music Affairs Group at Sony Pictures Entertainment.

Currently semi-retired, Merlene is Co-President, with her sister, of Merle's Girls Music, a family-owned publishing company that holds songs written by her father, legendary guitarist/songwriter, Merle Travis, and is presently working on various projects preserving his legacy.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Linda Wohl. Linda was a longtime member of the CCC and her presence will be missed.

Linda Wohl Obituary

Linda Susan Wohl passed away from cancer on September 23, 2018. Linda was born in New Rochelle, New York on March 16, 1952, to Charles and Marjorie Wohl. Linda graduated from New Rochelle

High School in 1969. In 1972, she graduated from the College of Arts & Sciences at Cornell University and in 1975 from New York University Law School.

Linda began her music legal career at United Artists Records working for the legendary Sidney Shemel before becoming a much respected and loved member of the Paramount Pictures legal team for 30 years. As Senior Vice President of Legal for the Music Department, she mentored and inspired countless attorneys as she guided them through the arcane world of the music business. One of the projects of which she was most proud was her work in steering the music-intensive film *Forrest Gump* through countless challenges and setbacks. Her tireless and creative work on that project enabled the filmmakers to use the music of their choosing, which contributed to the enormously successful worldwide release of the film and soundtrack album. Linda was always generous with her encyclopedic knowledge, possessed of a sly sense of humor, and charmingly eccentric. Her fellow lawyers on either side of the negotiating table would acknowledge that no one ever knew more about film music law than Linda.

Her hobbies included a deep love for her New York Yankees, especially Mickey Mantle, mysteries, the New York Times Crossword Puzzle, music, traveling, the Hollywood Bowl, opera and movies.

She is survived by her mother Marjorie, sister Hope, brothers Eddie (wife Jules) and Kenny (wife Myriam), as well as her nephews Jonathan, Jack, Luke, niece Beverly (Cutson), her great niece, Shai and great nephew, Brian. She will be greatly missed by all of us at the CCC. Donations in her name can be made to Save the Children, www.savethechildren.org.

Please visit our website, theccc.org, for more information soon!

