Maurice White
December 19, 1941 - February 3, 2016
singer-songwriter, musician, record producer, arranger and bandleader.

MPAC Music Symposium
University of Houston
Law Center February 27, 2016
University of Houston
TESTIMONIALS

"One of the most interesting voices I've heard in a long while."
CHAKA KHAN

"If she's not the greatest musical mind I've ever been around, she's certainly up at the top of the list."
HARRY CONNICK Jr.

PAST RELEASES

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Welcome to the Music Symposium:

Traditional and Digital Entrepreneurship in Today’s Music Industry!

This is Mack Performing Arts Collective’s first official annual Music Symposium. I want to say a few words about the format and overall tone of the day. This is NOT a workshop. We will not be teaching any skills on how to play instruments or showcasing musical talent in any way. This is NOT a classroom lecture either in the fullest sense but we do want our attendees to be schooled in trends, changes and the current state of affairs of the music business as much as possible. This symposium is designed to create a platform of varying music business experts to provide information on the business side of the music industry, hear problems and provide solutions where possible, instill in the attendee how to make an economic impact in their communities and in the industry, and to connect people in the business right here in the greater Houston area.

MPAC continues to position It’s A Wrap Educational Workshops and Symposiums and MPAC Jazz amongst the cream of the crop, by connecting industry professionals with aspiring industry professionals for an informative, yet interesting day. The Music Symposium will have two seated panels discussing the topics “Building a Brand and Creating a Buzz in the New Music Industry”; and “The Changing Economics of the Music Business”. The symposium is a collaboration between MPAC, The Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law (IPIL) at the UH Law Center, and the Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice (IIPSJ), a Washington, D. C. based nonprofit.

Overall, the impact of what we are doing regarding the music business and professional development is preparing our attendees for the “Success Business”. This symposium is really about knowledge and empowerment. The entertainment business is a billion dollar industry. Working successfully in the music business can be a means of constant and residual income, wealth and equity accumulation. Because of social media and new technology, there are legions of people nationwide now trying to break into the entertainment business and the timing is right for us to help them given the explosive demand for content to fill all of the new distribution channels.

Today, we want you, our attendees, to hear stories good or bad. We want you to absorb our panelists’ knowledge and insight gained from years of experience and being in the trenches. We want you to get validation of being on the right track or confirmation that you are not. And if you are not, then we want you to receive direction on how to get there. With that being said, the dialogue will be conversational and in layperson terms as much as possible.

Think of the symposium along the lines of a town hall meeting with the city council. We want the elected officials (our esteemed panel) to discuss the business of the day yet engaged the citizens (our attendees) to show up to the meeting with questions, concerns or problems that need to be addressed. Our moderators will briefly introduce each panelists, start with a general warm up question to the entire panel regarding their thoughts on how they see the music business today in light of where they started their journey, and then delve into the outline of topic discussion from there. As we cover these matters, we will hear from however many panelists on the topics of discussion and engage a comment or question from an attendee per the moderator’s guidance.

We hope to cover as many items on the list of course, but we know we may not; therefore, the one on one moments after the panel ends may be an opportunity for you to talk to any of the panelists for a bit on their additional thoughts. The goal is for this symposium not to just be a panel of talking heads but to infuse the Q & A into the discussion. The day should be light, fun, and informative. I hope you will walk away looking forward to the next one, feeling happy that you have invested the time and that your money was well spent, having learned something new as well as having met someone new and would recommend the symposium to someone else!

Attorney Jalene M. Mack
Founder/Executive Director
Mack Performing Arts Collective, Inc.
Symposium Itinerary

8:55 am
Welcome Message
Jalene Mack, Esq.

9:00 am – 11:00 am
Panel One
Building a Brand and Creating a Buzz
TC Thompkins
Pam Luckett
Michael Artis
Dedra Davis, Esq.
Michael Olivas, Esq.
Jalene Mack, Esq. (Moderator)

Break: 11am-12 Noon
Lunch on your own

12:00 pm- 2:00 pm
Panel Two
The Changing Economics of the New Music Industry
Kim Burrell
Preston Middleton
Greg Carter
Jacquelyn Aluotto
Justin Barks, Esq.
Lateef Mtima, Esq. (Moderator)

Closing Message/Thank Yous
Jalene Mack, Esq.
Lateef Mtima is a Professor of Law at the Howard University School of Law. After graduating with honors from Amherst College, Professor Mtima received his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School, where he was the co-founder and later editor-in-chief of the Harvard BlackLetter Journal.

He is admitted to the New York and Pennsylvania bars and has practiced intellectual property, bankruptcy, and commercial law, including a decade in private practice with the international law firm of Coudert Brothers. Currently a member of the Advisory Council for the United States Court of Federal Claims and the BNA Patent, Trademark & Copyright Journal Advisory Board, Professor Mtima has held the post of Distinguished Libra Visiting Scholar in Residence at the University of Maine School of Law, is a past President of the Giles S. Rich Inn of Court for the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and was a member of the founding Editorial Board for the American Bar Association intellectual property periodical Landslide. Professor Mtima is the Founder and Director of the Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice, an accredited Non-governmental Organization Member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

MICHAEL OLIVAS

Michael A. Olivas is the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law at the University of Houston Law Center.

He is the author or co-author of fifteen books; his most recent *(Suing Alma Mater)* was published by Johns Hopkins University Press, on the subject of higher education and the U.S. Supreme Court.

It was chosen as the 2014 winner of the Steven S. Goldberg Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Education Law, given annually by the Education Law Association “in recognition of an outstanding article, book, book chapter, or other form of scholarly legal writing in the field of education law.”

He has a forthcoming book with NYU Press, *Percance to DREAM, A Legal and Political History of the DREAM Act.*

He also has a regular weekly radio show on the Albuquerque, NM, National Public Radio station KANW, *"The Law of Rock and Roll,"* (SM) where he reviews legal developments in music and entertainment law, appearing as *"The Rock and Roll Law Professor."* (SM)

He lectures on entertainment law subjects to lawyers and trade groups.

― Jimi Hendrix

"Music doesn't lie. If there is something to be changed in this world, then it can only happen through music."

- Jimi Hendrix
JUSTEN BARKS

Justen Barks is an attorney with Alonso PLLC. His entertainment and intellectual property practice encompasses a variety of industries including film and television, software, art, and music. Justen’s specialty is in music industry transactions and litigation, focusing on counseling and representing clients through artist development and litigation.

Justen has represented clients in commercial and entertainment matters before the state courts and courts of appeal in the state of Texas, and on behalf of his clients’ trademark rights before the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C.

A native Minnesotan, Justen attended Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee where he obtained a B.B.A. in Music Business and Entertainment Industry Management from the Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business. Justen obtained his J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center, graduating as a member of Order of the Barristers. In 2015, Justen joined the University of Houston Law Center’s Intellectual Property and Information Law Institute as an adjunct professor of Entertainment Law.
Greg Carter

Greg Carter, a native Houstonian now living in Los Angeles, has produced over 19 feature films and documentaries, 9 of which he has also directed and 6 he wrote. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to film and the community, Greg has been inducted into the Texas Filmmakers' Hall of Fame and has received numerous awards, including Best Director and Best Film 30th Parallel Film Festival (“Fifth Ward”); Gold Remi for Best Feature World Fest Houston International Film Festival (“Resurrection: The J.R. Richard Story”); and Best Docu-Drama San Diego Black Film Festival (“Waters Rising”). Greg studied film at Rice’s prestigious School of Visual and Dramatic Arts MFA program and graduated from Texas A & M University with a degree in Engineering.

When his schedule permits, Greg enjoys teaching filmmaking which has included instructing underprivileged youths through his association with SWAMP. He founded the Fifth Ward Young Filmmakers’ Project in 1992 receiving an recognition from the Mayor of Houston for his public service and contribution to the community. Greg recently participated in a youth filmmaker instruction program installation at the MFAH with producer and friend Elizabeth Avellan of Troublemaker Studios.

"Lap Dance" on which Greg served as Writer, Director and Co-Producer stars Mariel Hemingway, James Remar, Carmen Electra, Briana Evigan and Stacey Dash. "Lap Dance" is being distributed by e-One Entertainment and was released to theaters in NYC, Chicago L.A. and Houston in December of 2014.

"Lucky Girl", on which Greg served as Producer and Director, was released theatrically in 2015 by eOne Entertainment and is currently airing on BET. "Lucky Girl" his 11th feature which stars: LeToya Luckett, Columbus Short, Serayah, Malik Yoba, Ella Joyce, Shanti Lowry, Parker Mckenna Posey, Billy Sorrells, Gary Sturgis, Jalene Mack, Ameer Baraka, Camille Bright, Junie Hoang, Hawthorne James, And more.

Greg is currently in post with "My B.F.F." on which he served as Writer, Director and Co-Producer. His 11th directorial feature, the film stars We have a great cast which includes Sean Patrick Thomas, C Thomas Howell, Malik Yoba, Golden Brooks, K.D. Aubert and Lew Temple, Meta Golding, Junie Hoang and new comers Ainsley Bailey and Khail Bryant.

MICHAEL ARTIS

Originally from Beaumont, Texas, Michael Artis has always had a vision that surpassed his surroundings and current situations. Born September 13, 1981, Michael possessed the vital attributes of a Virgo. His keen eye, attention-to-detail, and industriousness would prove early on that success would follow anything he became involved with. The grounded upbringing and strong work ethic instilled in him by his family propelled Michael to supersede the expectations of his peers and community. His diligence and drive resulted in his high school creating and presenting him with a young entrepreneur award, the first of its kind. This recognition further fueled the flame of Michael’s ambition to become the self-made man he is today.

Entrepreneurship is not a new concept to Michael as he pioneered the nightlife scene in Southeast Texas, owning the most successful night club in the region at the age of 21. After conquering one industry, Mr. Artis set his sights on a new venture, taking interest in video and film production. He created his own media company Michael Artis Films (MAF). With no formal training, Michael taught himself the ins and outs, putting in more than the required 10,000 hours over the years; not only to perfect his craft, but to set himself apart as a stand out creative force within the entertainment industry.

Michael understands the formula to create something that is visually stimulating and complimentary to the subject matter. It takes an inventive mind to conceive just the right treatment to translate ideas from the pen and pad to the screen. Michael has mastered the art of storytelling, and has executed the most groundbreaking visuals for some of the biggest names in entertainment. His vast resume includes work with Big K.R.I.T., Meek Mill, Propain, Rich Homie Quan, and Kirko Bangz. Michael’s ability to impeccably deliver one of a kind visuals are cause for hip-hop legends like Scarface, Bun-B, Paul Wall, and Slim Thug to entrust him to create videos for their major releases.

Michael Artis is more than just a director. His product and reputation have opened the door for him to build relationships with major media outlets such as MTV Jams, BET, XXL, Complex, The Source, Rap Radar, and World Star Hip Hop. Thus, making him a large influence in reviving and jump starting the careers of today’s hottest artists. In addition to his successful media company, Michael has his hands in a plethora of other businesses. The Michael Artis brand continues to expand on a global scale with his signature clothing line, and his partnership with Deluxe Vodka where he recently traveled with the brand on a European tour.
PAMELA LUCKETT

Pamela Luckett was born in Navasota, Texas, and raised in Houston, Texas. A graduate of Texas Southern University, she majored in Accounting and was a member of Beta Alpha Psi, the honorary accounting fraternity. She had a successful career in corporate America, for over 25 years before shifting into managing her two creative children, LeToya and Gavin, full-time.

Gavin was the first to enter the entertainment business as “Reggie”, the son of Ron and Cheryl McNair (portrayed by Joe Martin and Angela Bassett) in the Primetime Emmy Award winning movie “Challenger”. He has now become a highly sought after Platinum-Awarded music producer and mixing and mastering engineer and one of the most popular producers in the Houston-area. In addition to lending his talents to some of the biggest names in Southern Hip-Hop, Gavin produced the Intro and Outro on his sister’s self-titled debut album LeToya and the music for her web series Life, Love, and Music.

LeToya is an original member of Destiny’s Child, with whom she won numerous awards, including two Grammy Awards. Before embarking on her solo music career, she ventured into the fashion industry with Lady L Boutique, an upscale boutique in Houston’s trendy Uptown Park and Galleria Mall. LeToya has released two #1 R&B albums, LeToya and Lady Love, and is gearing up to release her highly anticipated third album Until Then... in 2016. In addition to music, LeToya has pursued her newfound passion of acting and has starred in numerous films and television projects including, Preacher’s Kid, From the Rough, Single Ladies, Lucky Girl and the new TV One comedy series Here We Go Again.

The success of both LeToya and Gavin are not only a reflection of their God-given talents and self-perseverance, but of Pam’s boundless guidance and immeasurable support not only as a manager, but also as a mother and friend.
TC THOMPKINS

TC THOMPKINS is a renowned and seasoned Music Executive with some 42 years of experience. Founder and owner of Thompkins Marketing, Thompkins’ Media Group, and Plum Jam Music, BMI. His career began in 1972 at Stax Records.

TC served as Vice President, Epic Records and worked with such notable Labels as: Philly International, Tabu, Teneck, Bang Records, Love Unlimited (Berry White), Portrait (Sade) and George Clinton.He joined GR productions as COO and served as liaison to MCA, Motown and Virgin Records. Vice President of Quality Records. Regional Director: Stax, ABC, Capitol, and CBS. Worked with music icons as Quincy Jones, Clive Davis, Kenny Gamble, Leon Huff, Granny White, Dave Clark, All Bell and Clarence Avant. Served as consultant to: Stereo Fame (J- Dash- platinum single “WOP”), Red Star (George Tandy,” March “, Top 10 UAC single).

His career has been featured on all major networks, NBC, FOX, CBS TV and Radio, and BET. Articles has appeared in BRE, Houston Business Journal, WHO’S WHO IN BLACK AMERICA, A KING SIZE VIEW AND BILL BOARD. Interviews with “Great Day Houston” Local affiliate of CBS as a talent judge. Served on music panels for Houston Community College with Atty. Ricky Anderson. Talent Judge for a Local Morning show, “Great Day Houston”. His awards include dozens of platinum and gold records from artist such as Michael Jackson’s “THRILLER” (Largest selling CD in music history) and (“OFF THE WALL”). Sade’s introductory album to America, “Diamond Life”, “Smooth Operator”, “Your Love Is King”Luther Van Dross, (NEVER TO MUCH), (ALWAYS, FOREVER, FOR LOVE), and (BUSY BODY);Chaka Khan (SWEET THING);Cyndi Lauper (Girls Just Want To Have Fun)Isley Brothers, (“In BEDTWEEN THE SHEETS”); Mtume’ (“J UICY FRUIT), SOS Band (Just Be Good to Me) ;MAZE, (“MAZE”). “Happy Feelin’s” “Tina Marie’s (“STAR CHILD”). Teddy Pendergrass, “Love TKO, “Close The Door”, “Turn Off The Lights” “Life Is A Song Worth Singing” Patty Labelle, (“IF ONLY YOU KNEW”), Guy (“GUY”). “Teddy’s Jam”, “Groove Me” George Duke, Johnny Taylor, The Clash, Heat Wave, The O’Jays, Isaac Hayes, Bill Withers, The Dramatics, Natalie Cole (Inseparable), To name a few.

Attended Bishop College: Business and Management, CBS School of Management: Administration and Business, US MILITARY: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

TC’S MILITARY EXPERIENCE’S INCLUDE: 3 Years Military service in the army. Served with The First Air Calvary in Vietnam.

Music is a universal avenue among all cultures, age groups, and all differences which divide us. I think it is this genuine love for this craft that brings us together as one. I have made my passion into my lively-hood, how grand is that? Everything I’ve done in my career was easy, because it came from my soul.
Kim Burrell's unrivaled instrument, impeccable musicianship and ability to tap into the human experience and emotion has made her a favorite across genre and within the music community. The Grammy-Award nominated and Stellar Award winning singer has collaborated with artists as diverse as Harry Connick Jr. and funk master George Clinton. In the middle, there's R. Kelly, Stevie Wonder and Gospel's First Lady, Shirley Caesar. Her soulful vocal runs have influenced a generation of mainstream recording artists ranging from Jazmine Sullivan to Justin Timberlake.

Burrell, who is a mentor on BET's wildly popular Sunday Best has a burgeoning A-List Hollywood fan club which includes Beyoncé, Mariah Carey, Omarion, Jessica Simpson, P Diddy and Chaka Khan. Donnie McClurkin has said "There's nobody greater" while Whitney Houston once declared Burrell to be "One of the greatest voices of our time." It is clear why Ms. Burrell is everybody's favorite mentor on BET's "Sunday Best." It is also no wonder why last year's Essence Festival chose to honor the incomparable Burrell. On hand to pay homage were such stars as India.Arie, Yolanda Adams, Jazmine Sullivan, Lalah Hathaway, Christette Michele and others.

A Houston native and daughter of a Pastor/musician Father and an Evangelist/singer Mother, Burrell came by her gifts honestly. She started her musical career with the Greater Emmanuel C.O.G.I.C. Choir of Houston, and early in her career, she was featured on recordings with the Gospel Music Workshop of America Youth Choir; Trinity Temple Full Gospel Mass Choir of Dallas, Texas along with Kirk Franklin, and The Inspirational Sounds Mass Choir of Houston, TX. The much in demand vocalist has appeared at the Inaugural Celebration of the 44th President of the United States Barack Obama, the Celebration of Holy Mass at New York's Yankee Stadium by Pope Benedict XVI, Jazz at Lincoln Center and Lincoln Center, Radio City Music Hall, The Rock & Roll Music Hall of Fame and various other notable venues and ministries around the world. Kim Burrell has also been featured on BET's Celebration of Gospel, Lift Every Voice in London England. A favorite on Bobby Jones' long-running Gospel program, Burrell will appear on the final episode as the show takes its final bow.

Whitney Houston once said Kim Burrell's voice is one of the greatest. 2010 was, in fact, the year when Kim Burrell and Whitney Houston publicly encouraged each other in all places. In early January 2010, the BET Honors were held and Kim Burrell shocked honoree Whitney Houston with a tribute performance of "I Believe in You and Me," from The Preacher's Wife soundtrack. Later in May, Kim joined Whitney on stage in Munich, Germany during Houston's comeback tour. In December, Kim Burrell and Whitney Houston sang "I Look to You" at the recording of BET's Celebration of Gospel, which aired in January 2011.

Performing professionally since 1995, Kim Burrell now has six albums under her belt and has appeared on major Billboard Gospel Charts. Out of her five albums, Burrell has received Grammy nods for three: Live in Concert (2002), No Ways Tired (2009), and The Love Album (2011). Burrell will also headline in the blockbuster Festival Of Praise Tour. Burrell will tour alongside Fred Hammond, Donnie McClurkin, Hezekiah Walker & Israel Houghton. Kim Burrell maintains an unbelievably busy itinerary. She believes that impassioning others is truly divine and has made it one of her missions in life, "The idea that I've inspired anyone...especially to have not studied any music formerly... is nothing less than a miracle from God and a blessing."
PRESTON MIDDLETON

Preston Middleton is the President and CEO of Next Wave Entertainment LLC. Next Wave has branch offices in Atlanta and Houston. His company specializes in the area of digital distribution of entertainment and filmed content. In addition, he was instrumental in the negotiation of the Comcast / TSU TV On Demand broadband cable TV channel launch, the very first HBCU/Comcast On Demand partnership in the history of the Comcast Corporation.

During his career in the recording industry he has worked with, produced, written and developed some of the entertainment industry's top recording acts including TV production for Oprah Winfrey, ESPN, The Travel Channel, VH1, MTV, The Geto Boys, Big Mello, The Fifth Ward Boys, Boy George, Destiny's Child, Tami Latrell, Beyonce, The Gap Band, Charlie Wilson, Brain Michael Cox, George Clinton, Guy, Teddy Riley, Film Producer and musician Ice Cube "Friday soundtrack, upcoming releases by Simone Skye, and Electronic Dance Music group Mission 7. Mr. Middleton has also earned multiple Platinum and Gold records from the RIAA.

Mr. Middleton’s Company Next Wave Entertainment LLC produces live entertainment properties, filmed content and develops technology solutions for premium digital content. Next Wave Entertainment’s filmed live concert events are rigged with multiple cameras, post production facilities, state-of-the-art light and sound systems. Next Wave also provides digital merchandising strategies and solutions. All content created can be monetized and powered through Next Wave technology platforms and partners. Next Wave Entertainment creates embedded interactive advertisements around exclusive content to create revenue streams for unique filmed content.

In the last several years Mr. Middleton has had the honor of serving Texas Southern University as a corporate sponsor and acting General Manager/Executive Producer of TSU TV/ Comcast/NBC Universal Television partnership. During his time at the University he has also taught courses as an adjunct professor and provided full time consultant work to the School of Communication. Mr. Middleton has lectured at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and lectured for the American Bar Association’s (CLE program) Entertainment and Sports Law Division. Most recently Mr. Middleton has served on the Advisory Board for Houston Community College’s Music Education’s program.

In 2012 Mr. Middleton, along with noted Entertainment attorney Ricky Anderson launched a retooled Entertainment Industry educational initiative for Houston Community College. Preston Middleton is a graduate of Morehouse College and a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Inc. Education: Morehouse College, attended Thurgood Marshall School of Law.
JAQUELYN ALUOTTO

Jacquelyn Aluotto is a producer, director, and activist dedicated to saving shelters for homeless people through the eradication of poverty, violence, and abuse across America.

Jacquelyn created, produced, and directed three new shows proving that making a difference is entertaining and inspiring. She is the go to girl for celebrities, activist, influencers, and advocates who want to be featured on her shows and highlight their causes.

As the Director for FUBU TV Socially Conscious Entertainment division. Jacquelyn is the founder of the popular website “Real Beauty Real Women” where giving back is glamour and activism is sexy, and directed and produced the Award Winning Documentary “Not In My Backyard” with never seen before powerful footage of abused and homeless women and children. In 2012 Not In My Backyard screened in Washington and received a standing ovation at "The World's Women Conference Of Shelters."

Labeled ‘The Socially Conscious Fashionista’ Jacquelyn is a constant face on popular TV shows, and has presented at numerous colleges and universities. Jacquelyn has received congressional recognition for her work, also Two Citations’ from the State of New Jersey Senate and General Assembly. The recipient of many awards including the B.O.S.S. "Influencer" Award, Winnie Mandela Award, Community Service Award, and was a finalist in the Russel Berrie Foundation’s People Making A Difference Award.

In 2010 she was voted a top 10 CEO women in America. As the founder and creator of RBRW.ORG, Pick It Up Pictures and her non-profit Break The Cycle. Her unscripted doc series the "NIMBY EXPERIENCE" is not only ground breaking but it is changing the way people see the world, while raising awareness and funds for what is happening in "Our Back Yards".

Jacquelyn Alutto's main focus and dream is to inspire people through Socially Conscious Entertainment that is making a difference and giving back.

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JOHN D. DAVIS JR. OWNER HOUATOND JOHN@AOL.COM
Entertainment Attorney Dedra Davis' motto, "Let THIS music lawyer handle YOUR music law issues™," rings true to the dedication of Attorney Davis, who for years has been doing just that... handling business. Attorney Davis has been voted the 2002-2003 Legal Executive of the Year for good reason. Not only does this outstanding entertainment attorney provide exceptional legal and consulting services to all genres of music worldwide, she also "gives back" by sharing her time, money and wealth of knowledge.

Attorney Davis made the world take notice when she began independently representing Saregama India Limited (located in Bombay, India) against Dr. Dre, Aftermath Records, Interscope Records, and Universal Records in a copyright infringement case that could yield record-breaking amounts in damages. She has definitely lived up to the nickname of being a "bulldog" during negotiations. After constantly being approached by music producers that "wanted their music heard", Attorney Davis founded The Worldwide Music Producers' LISTEN AND EXCHANGE™. The LISTEN AND EXCHANGE™ was Entertainment Attorney Dedra Davis' way to help put all the music and film industry people together and give them permission to meet one another, talk to one another, and do business with one another, while providing a forum for the producers to get their music heard.

She "dreamed up" the event in October 2002, and it became a reality in February 2003. The Worldwide Music Producers' LISTEN AND EXCHANGE™ took on a "life of its own," and now Entertainment Attorney Dedra Davis has turned this successful brainchild into a trademarked annual event which fosters an atmosphere for deal-making, and career enhancement. Attendees consist of the music, film and tv industries, along with the 10 top LISTEN AND EXCHANGE™ music producers, and more.

Attorney Davis practices 100% Entertainment law with a flair! She represents platinum, gold, as well as uncertified artists, producers, writers, record labels, managers and publishing companies from all over the world. In addition to reading, writing, and negotiating entertainment contracts, placing tracks, and placing music in movies and tv, she provides worldwide entertainment business consulting services, and has strong relationships with major records labels, publishing, production, movie, and television companies all over the world.

Attorney Davis has become one of the most highly sought after speakers in the nation on entertainment law issues including, but not limited to, music publishing, sampling, and independent labels. Attorney Davis' extensive experience as a guest speaker, moderator, keynote speaker and panelist derives from her frequent appearances as a speaker for organizations, universities, law schools, and associations inside and outside of the United States.

Entertainment Attorney Davis is also CEO of Dedra's Entertainment Group, a marketing and promotion company which successfully produced events such as Black Cinema Cafe-Houston, Producers Panel, NABFEME "Living Your Dream" event, NABFEME mix and mingle reception, BESLA fundraiser, etc. Attorney Davis received her Bachelor's Degree from Texas Tech University and her Doctor of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law.

Attorney Davis can be reached at 713-981-3861 or DEDRADAVIS@musiclw.com. www.musiclw.com, www.LISTENANDEXCHANGE.com
JALENE MACK

An accomplished Entertainment Attorney and the Artistic Director of MPAC having a long-term goal “to make an impact on the entertainment industry.”

Legal career has spawned a present and/or former clientele list that includes not only working with the dynamic trio Steve Harvey, Rushion McDonald and Ricky Anderson, but also with Comedian/Actor Thomas Miles aka Nephew Tommy; Gospel Sensation Kim Burrell; Actress/Author Robin Givens; Grammy Winner/Former Destiny’s Child member LaToya Luckett, TNT Sports Commentator/ Former Houston Rockets’ Star Guard Kenny Smith; WNBA Comets Two-Time Champion Forward Yolanda Moore; Host of Soul Train/Comedian Mystro Clark; Comedians Kiana Dancie, Shawty Shawty, Billy D. Washington, Shawn Harris; Football Great Broderick Thomas, Tennessee Titan Steve Jackson; SWV’s Tamara Taj George, Actor Carl Anthony Payne, Filmmakers Greg Carter and Datari Turner; Dr. Phil/The Doctors Show Experts Debra & Brandon Knauss; TV Executive Kathy Sapp and a host of others.

Accomplished writer, producer and actress in her own right, she most recently starred in the movie The Great Divide currently running on BET/Netflix based on a play she co-wrote and negotiated the sale of the movie rights.

Proudest accomplishments is MPAC. Realizing she had invaluable knowledge as a business woman, entertainment lawyer, playwright, producer and actress, having a circle of high profile clients, industry colleagues and contacts ranging from all facets of performing arts, and having resources most often times out of reach of others were otherwise right at her fingertips, this was the opportunity to give back to her Houston community, expand the growth of the performing arts industry, and make dreams come true.

Pulling from her own life experiences and turning her passion for the arts into a business, Jalene has a gift to enlighten, encourage and energize children and young adults with her positive messages centered around being phenomenal, knowing your power, and living outside the box.

Constantly sought after as a guest speaker for schools, churches and entertainment conferences and organizations.

Received such awards as I-10 Media Magazine’s Top Houston Forty Over Forty People to Watch Award, Houston Sun Newspaper’s 30 Points of Light: Women of Power & Purpose Award, D-Mars.com Business Journal’s Top 50 Black Attorneys Community Hero Award, and the Honey Brown Hope Foundation Women Improving the Nation Award (W.I.N.).
Maurice White (born December 19, 1941 - February 3, 2016) was an American singer-songwriter, musician, record producer, arranger and bandleader. He was the founder of the band Earth, Wind & Fire. White was born in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1941. He grew up in South Memphis, where he lived with his grandmother in the Foote Homes Projects and was a childhood friend of Booker T Jones, with whom he formed a "cookin' little band" while attending Booker T Washington High School.[6] He made frequent trips to Chicago to visit his mother, Edna, and stepfather, Verdine Adams, who was a doctor and occasional saxophonist.

In his teenage years, he moved to Chicago and studied at the Chicago Conservatory of Music, and played drums in local nightclubs. By the mid-1960s he found work as a session drummer for Chess Records. While at Chess, he played on the records of artists such as Etta James, Ramsey Lewis, Sonny Stitt, Muddy Waters, the Impressions, the Dells, Betty Everett, Sugar Pie DeSanto and Buddy Guy.

White also played the drums on Fontella Bass's "Rescue Me" and Billy Stewart's "Summertime".[8] In 1962, along with other studio musicians at Chess, he was a member of the Jazzmen, who later became the Pharaohs. He was also the older brother of current Earth, Wind & Fire member Verdine White, and former member Fred White.

He served as the band’s main songwriter and record producer, and was co-lead singer along with Philip Bailey. He won seven Grammys, and was nominated for a total of twenty Grammys. White was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Vocal Group Hall of Fame as a member of Earth, Wind & Fire, and was also inducted individually into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Also known by his nickname "Reese", he worked with several famous recording artists, including Denice Williams, the Emotions, Barbra Streisand and Neil Diamond.

With Maurice as the bandleader and producer of most of the band’s albums, EWF earned legendary status winning six Grammy Awards out of a staggering 14 nominations, a star on the Hollywood Boulevard Walk of Fame, and four American Music Awards. The group’s albums have sold over 90 million copies worldwide. Other honors bestowed upon Maurice as a member of the band included inductions into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Vocal Group Hall of Fame, The Songwriters Hall of Fame and The NAACP Image Awards Hall of Fame.

White brought the kalimba into mainstream use by incorporating its sound into the music of Earth, Wind & Fire. He was also responsible for expanding the group to include a full horn section - the Earth, Wind & Fire Horns, later known as the Phoenix Horns. He retained executive control of the band and was still very active in the music business, producing and recording with the band and other artists. Messages of encouragement from celebrities including: Steven Tyler of Aerosmith, Boyz II Men, Smokey Robinson, Isaac Hayes, Michael Jackson, Eric Clapton and Tom Morello of Rage Against the Machine were published for White.

From time to time, after his retirement, he appeared on stage with Earth, Wind & Fire at events such as the 2004 Grammy Awards Tribute to Funk, and alongside Alicia Keys at Clive Davis’ 2004 pre-Grammy awards party where they performed the band’s 1978 hit “September”.
Awards and Honors

Grammy Awards
The Grammy Awards are awarded annually by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences of the United States. In all, White received seven awards from 20 nominations; he won once and was nominated four times as an individual performer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipient/Nominated work</th>
<th>Award Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>&quot;Earth, Wind &amp; Fire&quot;</td>
<td>Best Instrumental Composition Nominated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>&quot;Got to Get You into My Life&quot;</td>
<td>Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocalist(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Won &quot;Fantasy&quot;</td>
<td>Best R&amp;B Song Nominated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>&quot;Maurice White&quot;</td>
<td>Producer of the Year Nominated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other awards
- Four American Music Awards.
- The BET Lifetime Achievement Award
- An ASCAP Rhythm and Soul Award
- An ASCAP Pop Music Award
- Three NAACP Image Awards
- An ASCAP Rhythm and Soul Heritage Award
- Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
- A Star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame
- On May 16, 2005, Maurice was honored by Los Angeles Valley College as the first recipient of their Cultural Achievement Award Of Excellence.
- On May 10, 2008, Maurice White and Philip Bailey received honorary doctorates from the Berklee College of Music.
- On May 20, 2008, Maurice, Philip Bailey, Ralph Johnson and Verdine White received honorary doctorates from Columbia College of Chicago.
Panelists
TC Thompkins
Pam Luckett
Michael Artis
Dedra Davis, Esq.
Michael Olivas, Esq.
Rev. Kim Burrell
Preston Middleton
Greg Carter
Jacquelyn Aluotto
Justin Barks, Esq.
Lateef Mtima, Esq. (Moderator)

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