



Promoting creative power in people with disabilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Career Forum on Copyright Issues

DETROIT, MI: July 22, 2009— *VSA arts of Michigan* presents a career forum for musicians and composers interested in copyright law. Experts will be on hand to provide a brief overview of current copyright issues and answer questions from participants. **The forum will be held at the Russell Industrial Center, 1600 Clay Street, Detroit from 1-5pm on Wednesday, August 12.** A \$10 registration fee is required for this event. Interested persons may contact Susan Fitzmaurice at susan@vsami.org or by calling 313.832.3303. Individuals self-identified as living with a disability will have the registration fee waived. *VSA arts of Michigan* strives to promote creative power in people with disabilities.

In today's world with the web and mass production, artists can advance their careers like never before. But these very tools that can be great assets to the artist can actually cause problems. Copyright is an issue that artists need not only be aware of, but also need to understand. VSA arts of Michigan and the Career Forum are pleased to present this needed topic to advance the careers and abilities of artists. Copyright expert Matthew Bower will present an overview of basic copyright issues and then focus the forum toward issues specifically related to musicians and composers. This workshop will make one aware of current artist right and how one may protect their work.

Matthew W. Bower is an attorney with Safford & Baker PLLC, Bloomfield Hills, and practices in the area of general business with a focus on copyright, trademark, Internet law, e-commerce, art law, publishing, entertainment law, right of publicity, and other areas of intellectual property. He is Chair for the Arts, Communication, Entertainment and Sports (ACES) section of the State Bar of Michigan and an active member of the Copyright Society of the United States of America and Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts and Culture (VLAC). He received a BFA in theater from the

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University of Michigan in 1995, and his degree in law from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, New York in 2002. While attending Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Bower served as the Editor in Chief of the Cardozo Arts& Entertainment Law Journal.

VSAMI is a member of the international network of VSA arts, an affiliate of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. VSA arts was founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith, and has been designated by the U.S. congress as the nation's coordinating agency for arts programs for people with disabilities. VSA has 52 affiliates in the U.S. and over 55 international affiliates, and annually serves millions of people worldwide.

VSA arts of Michigan supports its programs and services across the state through grants from national VSA arts under an award from the United States Department of Education Office of Special Education; the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs; and through contributions from corporations, foundations and individuals.

For further information, please contact Jessica Guzmán at 313-832-3303, or email jessica@vsami.org.

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