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January 15, 2017

**TESLAW Tidbits:**  
***A Little Taste of TESLAW***  
**January 12, 2017**  
**Issue No. 21**

Dear TESLAW Members,

Happy 2017! Looking forward to an exciting new year!!

Please mark your calendars for the 7th Annual TESLAW Mixer, which will be held at Iron Cactus (Sixth Street location) on Thursday, March 16th from 4-6 P.M. All members are encouraged to attend even if they are not attending SXSW.

2017 marks the 4th year of this publication. Below is a special spotlight on the newsletter staff that makes this publication possible. I hope you have enjoyed receiving this members-only perk! We welcome your feedback and submissions. What do you like about the newsletter? How can we improve? Send your comments and submissions to me via [email](#).

Sincerely,  
Victoria Helling, Editor in Chief for TESLAW Tidbits  
[Entertainment and Sports Law Section](#)

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**Special Spotlight on Tidbits Newsletter Staff**

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**Tanner Robinson** (*Practice Document Editor*)



Tanner Robinson is a Dallas-based attorney who graduated from Dallas Baptist University with a degree in Music Business before completing his J.D. at SMU Law. He has since served clients at Richard Law Group, a trademark and copyright firm, before going in-house with Trintech Inc., an Addison-based software company catering to blue-chip accounting departments. Mr. Robinson practices entertainment law (focusing on the music industry) as his side hustle and enjoys helping clients and other attorneys alike.

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**Melissa Thrailkill** (*Articles Editor*)



Melissa Thrailkill represents families and individuals with their family, estate planning, and arts and entertainment law needs. A graduate of UC-Berkeley School of Law, she describes herself as a "community lawyer," who works to meet her neighbor's everyday legal needs and provide quality legal representation, advocacy, and consultation for all. She recently founded and launched Texas Lawyers Against Hate, a Texas non-profit dedicated to combatting discriminatory policies and practices in the legal and political systems.

**Janine Waranowicz** (*Spotlight Editor*)

Janine Waranowicz is an attorney and producer focused on intellectual property, film festivals, and animated series development. She is the Director of Legal Affairs for Night Heron, a Houston-based animation studio, and is currently working on year two of Rush Process, the only full-scale animation festival in Texas. As a native of Detroit and law grad from Tulane, she's brought her love of Motown and live jazz to the Lone Star State.

**Dena Weaver** (*Assistant Newsletter Editor*)

Dena Weaver is a member of Weaver Law, PLLC located in Arlington, Texas experienced in consumer bankruptcy law, securities law violations and civil litigation. Ms. Weaver's current entertainment clients include a television show creator, a published author and aspiring writers.

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## Events Calendar

**Sports Law: Behind the Lights, Cameras and Action**

University of Houston Law Center Symposium

Doubletree Hotel, Downtown Houston, TX

January 26, 2017

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

MCLE Credit: 4 hrs, including 1 hr ethics

*\*The 2017 Andrews Kurth Kenyon Moot Court National Championship is being held in conjunction with the CLE event and the University of Houston Law Center is looking for judges. If interested, please email [Amy E. Hawk](#), Associate Director of the Blakely Advocacy Institute.*

**Boomtown Film & Music Festival**, Beaumont, TX: February 23 – 26, 2017

**Nacogdoches Film Festival**, Nacogdoches, TX: February 24 – 26, 2017

**Houston Jewish Film Festival**, Houston, TX: March 5 – 19, 2017

**South by Southwest**, Austin, TX: March 10-19, 2017

7th Annual TESLAW Mixer, Austin, TX: March 16, 2017

**Spotlight on Kevin Harrison**

Kevin Harrison is an entertainment attorney located in Denton. Kevin's law firm, Kevin Harrison Law, specializes in transactional entertainment, intellectual property, and business law. His clients include musicians, authors, filmmakers, comic book artists, publishers, graphic designers, educators, concert promoters, record labels, podcasts, a community radio station, and many small businesses throughout the United States.

Prior to attending law school, Kevin worked extensively in film, video, and live entertainment. He has experience in virtually every role within the film, live event, and photography industries, giving him a broad understanding of the special needs and challenges at every budget, level, and stage of entertainment production.

Kevin recently published *Men of Steal: The Complicated Question of Who Owns Superman* in the Fall 2016 TESLAW Journal. He has spoken on entertainment related matters, and regularly appears on the music copyright panel for the 35 Denton Music Festival.

Kevin was a Presidential Scholar at San Jose State University where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Creative Arts. He received a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Golden Gate University School of Law. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas, TESLAW, and The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. Kevin can be reached by email [here](#).

## Preview of the 85th Texas Legislative Session

by Stephen Aguilar

With the bi-annual Texas Legislative Session began on Tuesday, January 10. TESLAW is identifying proposed legislation that will affect some aspects of the sports and entertainment industries in Texas. Already, several bills have been filed during the pre-filing period, which opened on November 14, 2016. Below is a brief summary of those bills already filed, some new and some repeat proposals that did not successfully make their way into law in 2015.

- [SB 99](#) (Sen. Bob Hall, R): Reviving legislation from the 2015 session, this bill would abolish the Music, Film, Television and Multimedia Office (MFTMO) within the office of the governor. The MFTMO promotes the development of the music, film, television and multimedia industries in Texas by educating industry people and the general public about resources and incentives available for the production of music, film television and multimedia projects in Texas.
- [SB 244](#) (Sen. Konni Burton, R): This legislation would repeal the "Moving Image Incentive Program," which is a grant program administered by the MFTMO for production companies that produce moving image projects in Texas.
- [SB 105](#) (Sen. Bob Hall, R) and [SB 390](#), [SB 392](#) (Sen. Konni Burton, R): Each of these bills seek to abolish several state-administered trust funds aimed specifically at: the Pan American Games Trust Fund, Olympic Games Trust Fund, Major Events Reimbursement Program Fund, Motor Sports Racing Trust Fund, and Events Trust Fund. These funds were originally established to help lure events, both major and small, and the associated revenue, to Texas and keep them coming here.
- [HB 295](#) (Rep. Armando Walle, D): This bill would require county commissioner courts in counties with a population over 3.3 million to issue noise regulations for unincorporated areas of a county, and would allow a permit for certain events and authorizes a fee, and provides criminal penalties for violations.

The 85th legislative session ends on May 29, 2017. Members can sign up for the Texas State Bar's Friday update [here](#). This service sends enrollees a weekly snapshot and summaries of legislation and other activity taking place at the Capitol during the legislative session.

*Stephen A. Aguilar is a partner with [RWR Legal](#) in San Antonio. RWR Legal is a business and corporate law firm that also specializes in representing artists, entertainers, producers and athletes, with offices in San Antonio (210-745-5834) and Austin (512-320-0601). Mr. Aguilar is Associate Editor of the Texas Entertainment and Sports Law Journal and also serves on the TESLAW Council. He can be reached at [Stephen@rwr.legal](mailto:Stephen@rwr.legal).*

## Practice Document

The [attached practice document](#) is an agreement between an actor and producer for an actor's employment in a full-length feature film. This form agreement is provided by Tim Tesch, a Dallas attorney. Tim can be reached by email [here](#).

*Send questions, comments, and submissions for TESLAW Tidbits to [Victoria Helling](#), Editor in Chief.*

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