

**STEPHEN W. TROPP**

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**EDUCATION:**

**B.A.** University of California

**J.D.** University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law 1985

LLM. University of Cambridge / SJD Candidate Theses completion open

**ADMISSIONS:**

State Bar of California, 1985 Bar #119325

Ninth, Tenth, Second, and Fifth Circuits

U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Central, Northern, and Southern Districts of California, Districts of Colorado, Eastern Michigan, North Dakota, and Nevada (General Admission)

United States Supreme Court

**PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT:**

**Law Office of Naomi Assis 2008- present Consultant and head of Entertainment Practice**

**Kismet Films: Partner**

BARRY UNIVERSITY – Associate Professor of Law

Fall 2001- 2006

Taught Contracts I, Contracts II. (UCC Art. 2), Copyright, Trademark, Entertainment, Antitrust, Sports Law, International IP, Advanced Copyright, Rights of Publicity and Privacy, Advanced Appellate Advocacy. (Both my Entertainment and Sports Law courses are taught as transactional courses and act as advanced Contract drafting and negotiation courses).

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC,  
McGEORGE SCHOOL OF LAW – Adjunct Professor  
1991-1994, 1996-2000  
Taught Copyright and Entertainment and Sports Law. Helped develop Intellectual Property concentration.

Private Practice and Of Counsel, Weintraub Genshlea Chediak & Sproul  
Los Angeles and Sacramento, CA.

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, Los Angeles, CA.  
Partner and Chair, Intellectual Property Dept.  
Managed 19 Lawyers in IP group with practice largely  
in the motion picture, music and software industries.

Arter, Hadden, Lawler, Felix & Hall, Los Angeles, CA.  
Partner and National Co-Chair, Intellectual Property Dept.  
Helped build firm's IP practice.

Shea & Gould, Los Angeles and New York.  
Partner. Handled software and luxury goods  
counterfeiting practice.

Ashton-Tate Corporation, Los Angeles, CA.  
Corporate Counsel. Oversaw IP and Antitrust issues for  
large software publisher.

Weintraub, Genshlea, Hardy, Erich, & Brown  
Associate Attorney.

Lead Counsel – *Warner Bros. V. Curtis Publishing* (CD Cal. 1993)  
- *Streisand v. Odessey Auctions* (CD Cal. 1995)  
- *Kerslake v. Nirvana* (CD Cal. 1994)  
- *Novell v. Weird Stuff* (ND Cal 1994)  
- *Ashton-Tate v. NBA* (CD Cal 1988)  
- *Curtis v Republic Pictures* (CD Cal 1993)  
- *Rainbow Technologies v. Safesoft* ( Dist. ND 1993)  
- *Ashton-Tate v. Ross* 916 F.2d 516 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990) (in-house)

*Handled scores of contract negotiations for actors, directors, studios and producers. Production counsel for 100 plus independent films.*

Board Member, Software Publishers Association 1986-1993, Member, AIPLA, Sports Lawyers Association, Beverly Hills Entertainment Bar Association. Frequent Speaker and Panelist, AIPLA, PLI, Conference Bd., IACC and CEB Recent Publications, *It Had to be Murder, or Will be Soon*, 17 U.S.C. s203 *Termination of Transfers, A Call For Legislative Reform*, 51 *Journal, Copyright Society of the U.S.A*, 201 (2004), *Sleeping on Ziggy Sheets: Cryptomnesia And Originality Under The Copyright Clause*, multidisciplinary program at Case Western Law and The Harvard Graduate School For the History of Science published Summer 2007. *The Road Not Taken: 18<sup>th</sup> Century Answers to 21<sup>st</sup> Century problems in the Debate over Copyright Culture. (Work in Progress)*

Sample practice articles, *Online Music Fees, Privatization of Internet Domain Names, Compulsory Licensing and the "Fairness in Music Act of 1998"*. *Current Developments in Intellectual Property Litigation, Collective Litigation and Champerty and the Trademark Counterfeiting Act of 1984.*

Cases and Materials on Copyright 1991,1992,1993,1994,1999,2000 (course book)

Cases and Materials on Entertainment Law 1998,1999,2000 (course book)

Principal Speaker, Software Publishers International Conference Cannes, France, International Software Alliance, Tel Aviv, Israel

Steering committee – Key West International Film Festival

#### **Non Profit and Pro Bono Work**

**-California Lawyers for the Arts**

**-General Counsel – National Association for Search and Rescue**

**-Fund Raiser and advisor – Pediatric Aids Foundation**

**-Pro Bono legal advisor- Volunteers of America**

**-Producer w/ House of Blues for New Orleans Jazz Festival**

**-California Governor's Advisory Committee on State Protection of IP**

## ABSTRACT

Stephen Tropp    Contech 2010

Online distribution of traditional film and television content poses some very complex questions.

I intend to discuss the legal and business aspects of licensing this preexisting content to an online electronic distribution network. This could include the use of clips as emoticons in Dialog boxes or chats or in an SMS format. This discussion will center on the clearance problems of the use of such content in alternative media.

In addition, I will discuss the problem of viable business models in the distribution of traditional film and television media in and online environment.

Finally, attention will be paid to current technological and social issues arising from such use.