

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Leon Bass is the go-to up and coming intellectual property attorney and most established entertainment attorney in the region. Now in his 14th year of practice, Leon has built a solid reputation locally and nationally for his solid legal counsel in trademark, copyright, entertainment law, general business and real estate transactions as well as litigation in those arenas. Leon has been named a “**Super Lawyer**” rising star for the past two years and is a six-time winner of Corporate INTL’s “Law Firm of the Year.”

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2010 – Present: Adjunct Professor, Otterbein University

- ☞ Instructor of Music Law course. Extensive coverage of copyright law, trademark law, contract law as well as music industry legal and business issues applicable to recording, publishing and touring.

1998 - Present: Private Practice Attorney (Of Counsel, Chester Willcox & Saxbe, LLP)

- ☞ Founded and cultivated successful boutique law firm from the ground up. Developed progressive marketing strategies and business management processes. Developed a loyal client base.
- ☞ Practice concentration in transactional and litigation areas of trademark and copyright law, general business law, entertainment law, real estate and computer and internet law.
- ☞ Named “Rising Star” in intellectual property by Law and Politics Magazine, 2010, 2011.
- ☞ Wrote and published numerous articles on copyright, trademark, and related areas.
- ☞ Regular speaker and presenter on practice area concentrations.
- ☞ Of Counsel, Chester Willcox & Saxbe, LLP (2009 – Present): Chester Willcox & Saxbe is an AV rated, full service law firm with a 125 year history and stellar reputation as a premier litigation and general business law firm. The firm has a rich history of prestigious attorneys, many of whom have held public office, and some even reaching the highest offices such as US and Ohio Attorney General, US and Ohio Senator and Representative, the Ohio Supreme Court and Ohio Lieutenant Governor. Chester Willcox & Saxbe LLP Ranked in Metropolitan First Tier of U.S. News - Best Lawyers 2010 and 2011-2012 "Best Law Firms" List. In addition, about 1/2 of its attorneys are ranked "Super Lawyers" or Super Lawyers Rising Stars by Law and Politics Magazine.

2004 - 2008: Of Counsel to Rich Crites & Dittmer, LLC, an AV rated, 16 attorney full service law firm with over 50 years of service. The firm’s core practice groups include real estate tax and appeals, municipal law, business transactions, white collar crime, collections, and civil litigation.

- ☞ Facilitated new marketing initiatives for Rich Crites & Dittmer and the Law Office of Leon Bass using both web based marketing and direct marketing.
- ☞ Effectively implemented and maintained inventive firm process improvement systems and strategies that utilized the latest technology to create highly efficient, paperless mobile office.

Attorney Representative Clients include clients that range from of multi-billion dollar entities to small companies involving issues in intellectual property, entertainment, real estate and business matters. These include a concentration of clients in the music, entertainment, real estate, and construction industries including concert venues, record labels, publishing companies, booking agents, managers, artists, film producers, construction companies, real estate developers, and condominium associations. Clients have included or currently include:

- American Municipal Power
- Capitol South Urban Redevelopment Corporation
- Columbus Downtown Development Corporation
- Columbus Bicentennial 2012, Inc
- 175 South Third (office building purchase)
- 33 N High St. (office building purchase and sale)

- Buckeye Lake Music Center (AKA Legend Valley, a 40,000 plus capacity concert venue)
- Innovative Beverage Group, Inc (Houston, TX)
- John Kadlecik (guitar player and singer for national act Furthur, consisting of members of the Grateful Dead)
- Quiet Riot (nationally touring band)
- The All Good Festival (Major Music festival)
- MurphyEpson
- Able Roofing
- Stillwater Asset Management Fund (large New York hedge fund)
- Pagetech, Ltd.
- Coe Photographic, Inc.
- DeRoiser Insurance
- Stone Creek Condominium Association
- Armada, Ltd.
- Century Resources, Inc.
- Crossroads Community Development Corporation
- USTA (United States Trotting Association)
- Walther Productions (major East Coast concert promoter)
- Ashley Talent (major international booking agency)
- Dark Star Orchestra (nationally touring band)
- Night Ranger (nationally touring band)
- Fatty Koo (nationally touring band)
- Rock Never Stops (nationwide tour featuring Ted Nugent)
- Cumberland Trail Condominium Association
- Yearling Green Apartments

Representative Cases and Matters:

- Defense of trademark infringement and USPTO opposition proceedings brought by large corporation in federal district court (Texas) against local business client. Obtained judgment in favor of client invalidating Plaintiff's long owned and well known industry specific registered trademark, receiving national trade press
- Served as Expert Witness in copyright and trademark infringement case against Microsoft
- Obtained dismissal in defense of multi-million dollar breach of concert promotion agreement for US national tour for Quiet Riot, Ted Nugent, Night Ranger, and Slaughter
- Defended record label against copyright infringement and breach of contract claims by national recording artist
- Defended a large concert venue in a civil fraud case
- Represented a national beverage distributor and manufacturer in a trademark action in federal court against competitor manufacturer
- Represented a condominium association against a developer for breach of agreements and statutory violation
- Represented commercial photography studio in copyright infringement case against large companies
- Defended national beverage distributor in several trademark lawsuits and USPTO matters
- Representation in multi-million dollar commercial real estate transactions involving downtown office building

Prior Legal Experience:

- ☞ **Ohio Attorney General**, Columbus, OH, July 1996-April 1997
 - Prepared motions and pre-trial briefs in the Court of Claims Defense Section
- ☞ **Dean Nancy Rogers**, Ohio State University College of Law, May-August 1996
 - Pro bono litigation - pleadings, legal research, litigation strategy, and investigation
- ☞ **Rhino Records, Legal and Business Affairs**, Los Angeles, CA, May-August 1997
 - Prepared, drafted, and negotiated songwriter, licensing, and other music industry contracts
- ☞ **Famous Music Publishing Company, Legal Affairs**, Los Angeles, CA, May-August 1997
 - Drafted and analyzed publishing contracts, including synchronization and master use licenses
- ☞ **MCI WorldCom Advanced Networks**, Hilliard, OH, Sept.-Oct. 1998
 - Drafted, negotiated, and analyzed contracts for Fortune 2000 companies
- ☞ **Summers, Anthony & Vargas**, Columbus, OH, May 1996-Sept. 1998
 - Drafted state and federal appellate briefs, complaints, oral arguments
- ☞ **H. Lee Thompson & Co., L.P.A.**, Columbus, OH, May-July 1996
 - Prepared and managed client files, prepared legal research memos, engaged in negotiation
- ☞ **Law Office of Scott Marshall Neuman**, East Lansing, MI, Summer 1994
 - Prepared briefs, motions, pleadings, and oral arguments

BAR ADMISSIONS

- ☞ Ohio (1998)
- ☞ US Virgin Islands (2009)
- ☞ United States District Court, Southern and Northern District of Ohio (1998, 2011 respectively)
- ☞ Federal District Court in Houston, TX and San Diego, CA (Admitted Pro Hoc Vice) (2009-2010)

AWARDS, SPEECHES and PUBLICATIONS

- ☞ Super Lawyer, Rising Star, 2010, 2011 (Cincinnati Magazine)
- ☞ Law Firm of the Year, Corporate INTL Magazine, six time winner:
 - "Entertainment Law Firm of the Year" in Ohio and the US Virgin Islands
 - "Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year" in Ohio in the US Virgin Islands
 - "Food & Beverage Law Firm of the Year" in Ohio and the US Virgin Islands"
- ☞ Editor, "Making It" by Matthew Crumpton, Esq. and Tristan Kinsley (book on music industry)
- ☞ Author, " Everything You Need to Know about Trademark Protection and Registration"
- ☞ Author, "Why You Can't Copyright Your Song If You Have Already Written It!"
- ☞ Author, "Takin' Care of Business: A Band's Basic Business Guide"
- ☞ Author, "Will You Face The Music? Music Downloading 101"
- ☞ Author, "When to Consider Trademark Protection and Registration" 2009
- ☞ Author, "Brand due diligence saves millions" *Columbus Business First*, May 14, 2010
- ☞ Speaking engagements include: Columbus Bar Association, CLE course, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law Sports & Entertainment Law Association; Capital University Law School Sports & Entertainment Law Association; Midpoint Music Festival; AllBiz Music Conference; Undercurrents

ORGANIZATIONS, AFFILIATIONS and ACTIVITIES

- ☞ Columbus Bar Association – member of the Columbus Bar Association's Ethics Committee.
- ☞ Virgin Islands Bar Association – member of Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee
- ☞ Capitol Square Rotary - President and Board of Directors, multiple committee leadership roles
- ☞ Musicon, LLC - President and Chairman of the Board
- ☞ Hocking College – Former Board of Advisors, music program
- ☞ Columbus Community Festival - Board Member, Entertainment Selection Committee
- ☞ Music in the Round – Founder and chairperson of annual charity concert for anti-domestic violence non-profit
- ☞ Greater Columbus Local Music Awards – Founder and Executive Producer
- ☞ Photography – Produced award-winning photographs; concentration in underwater coral reef life
- ☞ Music – Performs in various musical acts on guitar, mandolin and vocals
- ☞ SCUBA – certified by PADI, extensive dive experience

EDUCATION

- ☞ The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Columbus, OH: Juris Doctor, May 1998
- ☞ Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI: Bachelor of Arts with Honor, July 1995
 - Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science with Business Cognate
 - Additional Major: Psychology

REFERENCES

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