

HTLI

HIGH TECH LAW INSTITUTE

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

HIGH TECH LAW INSTITUTE AT SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY HOSTS CLASS ON TRADEMARK LAW FOLLOWED BY AN UNPRECEDENTED CONCERT BY ANITA “LADY A” WHITE

University Professor Used Current Lawsuit of Lady Antebellum versus Anita “Lady A” White to Teach Law Students about Trademark Law



Anita “Lady A” White Performs via Zoom for students and faculty at the High Tech Law Institute at Santa Clara University School of Law

SANTA CLARA, CALIF – (September 16, 2020) – The recent trademark lawsuit over the name Lady A between Seattle-based blues and gospel singer Anita “Lady A” White and country music star Lady Antebellum has made national headlines. In June 2020, Lady Antebellum announced it would rename the group “Lady A” in an effort to avoid negative racial connotations from the word “antebellum” amid national unrest around the George Floyd murder and subsequent Black Life Matters protests.

However, Anita “Lady A” White, who happens to be a Black woman, has been using that moniker for performances for over 30 years. In July 2020, Lady Antebellum filed a lawsuit against the “original” Lady A, asking a court to declare that it could use the name, based on trademark registrations that it had obtained ten years earlier. On September 16, White filed a competing lawsuit against the band, asserting that she has superior rights to use the name.

Santa Clara Law Professor Tyler Ochoa, a recognized expert in copyright law and rights of publicity, opted to use the case as an example to his students, intellectual property (IP) faculty and the IP community in a Zoom presentation entitled “Controversy, Conversation and a Concert” on September 15, 2020. The discussion was capped off by a performance by Anita “Lady A” White.

During the discussion, Prof. Ochoa outlined the facts of the case and the basic principles of trademark law and rights of publicity as applied to the issues it raises, including the impact of the original filing in the Middle District in Tennessee. (White’s competing lawsuit was filed in the Western District of Washington.)

The lecture was followed by a rousing performance by Lady A, who performed a set of some her most popular songs, “If You Don’t Want It, Don’t Waste It,” “Honey, Hush,” and ode to her grandmother and a very topical song written after the murder of George Floyd, “Truth is Loud.” While Lady A was not able to comment on her ongoing case she said, “I’m thrilled that the Santa Clara University School of Law chose to highlight my case and I was delighted to perform for the student body.” This was the first time that a lecture at Santa Clara University School of Law and the High Tech Law Institute has been followed by a concert and it was lauded by faculty and students alike.

To watch the lecture and concert please [visit https://law.scu.edu/event/lady-a-controversy-commentary-and-a-concert/](https://law.scu.edu/event/lady-a-controversy-commentary-and-a-concert/).

For more information on Santa Clara University School of Law or the High Tech Law Institute, please visit www.law.scu.edu or www.law.scu.edu/high-tech.



About Santa Clara University School of Law

Santa Clara University School of Law, one of the nation’s most diverse law schools, is dedicated to

educating lawyers who lead with a commitment to excellence, ethics, and social justice. Santa Clara Law offers students an academically rigorous program including certificates in high tech law, international law, privacy law, public interest and social justice law, as well as numerous graduate and joint degree options. Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, Santa Clara Law is nationally distinguished for its faculty engagement, preparation for practice, and top-ranked programs in intellectual property.

About the High Tech Law Institute

The mission of the High Tech Law Institute is to be a nationally recognized program that educate and train lawyers who find innovative legal solutions to intellectual property and technology issues.

About Anita “Lady A” White

Social justice advocate, “Lady A” has been a Blues favorite for many years and is known as “The Hardest Working Woman in Blues, Soul, Funk, and Gospel. A national and international treasure in of Blues, the Lady's show has been compared to the likes of "Tina Turner" with an Oprah feel as she draws the audience in with her sultry-husky voice and contemporary blues-funk style. Voted 2020 Blues Performer of the Year by the Washington Blues Society, she is always striving to meet the needs of her audience through performance and lyrical education, making their experience in music memorable.

#

Media Contacts

Ginger Campbell	Deborah Lohse
SNAP Productions	Santa Clara University School of Law
ginger@snap-productions.com	dlohse@scu.edu
323.933.4155	408-554-5121
213.760.7414	