

Intellectual Property in Focus

With the cast set, venue booked, and ads placed, attorney James Creekmore and his team descended on the scene.

Months in the making, the Intellectual Property Law Symposium was held February 11, 2011, at Liberty University School of Law in Lynchburg, Va. The symposium was co-sponsored and underwritten by the Blacksburg, Va.-based Creekmore Law Firm, which specializes in intellectual property and business law.

An eclectic mix of attorneys, students, educators, and businesspeople attended the symposium. Virginia attorneys were able to earn four continuing-legal-education credits.

Members of the law school's Intellectual Property & Technology Law Society, which helped plan the symposium, arrived early at the school to prepare. The student-run group is dedicated to studying intellectual property and networking with its practitioners.

"It was an honor to play a part in hosting this unique event. The panelists and speakers, all consummate professionals, provided both the 60,000-foot view and many vibrant details legal practitioners need to make sense of this dynamic area of the law," said Jeremy Roe, the group's president and a third-year law student.

There was no shortage of IP-law practitioners at the symposium. Nine experts from across Virginia converged to disseminate their knowledge via three

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**IP Symposium photos by
Autumn Miller & Franco Santos**



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INTELLECTU
PROPERTY LAW SYM

TODAY
12:15 P.M.
SUPREME COURT

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IP SYMPOSIUM PANELISTS



Patents

Robert Matthews Jr.
(pictured above)
Matthews Patent-Law
Consulting, *Forest, Va.*

Michele Mayberry
New River Valley
Intellectual Property Law
Blacksburg, Va.

Matthew Osenga
Goodman, Allen, & Filetti,
PLLC, *Glen Allen, Va.*

Trademarks

Cheryl Black
(pictured above)
Goodman, Allen, & Filetti,
PLLC, *Glen Allen, Va.*

Karen Bush
(bottom center)
U.S. Patent & Trademark
Office, *Washington, D.C.*

Melanie Holloway
(bottom right)
Leading-Edge Law Group,
PLC, *Richmond, Va.*


Copyrights

Keith Finch
(pictured above)
The Creekmore Law Firm,
PC, *Blacksburg, Va.*

Charles Allen
Goodman, Allen, & Filetti,
PLLC, *Glen Allen, Va.*

David Cohan
Gentry, Locke, Rakes, &
Moore, LLP,
Roanoke, Va.





“The comments we received during and after the program were overwhelmingly positive. Several attendees said it was the single best CLE program they had ever attended.”

– James Creekmore, who attributed the symposium’s success to the panelists’ enthusiasm, knowledge and talent.

Moderator

James Creekmore
IP Symposium organizer
(pictured above)

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Roughly 70 people from across the state attended the IP Symposium. The audience of attorneys, students, educators, and businesspeople listened to the program inside Liberty University School of Law’s Supreme Courtroom.

Attendees





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panels—patents, trademarks and copyrights. Creekmore (top left) moderated their discussions.

Each panel began with a 101-style lecture by a panelist. Copyrights panelist Keith Finch used a novel approach: He sugarcoated his subject by swapping “copyright cookies” for audience participation. The panelists also analyzed current IP-law issues and addressed audience questions, such as the scope of fair use.

Between sessions, attendees and panelists retreated to the law school’s Mountain View Room (bottom), where BarBri-sponsored refreshments were devoured and business cards changed hands. The symposium ran smoothly thanks in part to law-school staff, like Dotti Nijakowski and Chris Breedlove, who provided logistical and technical support.

Attorney Anita Staver praised the panelists for making the subject matter interesting. She told her husband—law-school dean Mat Staver—she regrets not scoring one of Finch’s copyright cookies.

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