



# Shawnassey Howell Brooks

## FOCUS AREAS

Shawnassey focuses in the area of entertainment law, intellectual property and corporate law. Her media and advertising background gives her a unique perspective that allows her to advise on all aspects of musical, film and book projects, including editing, budgeting, corporate structure, promotion and social media marketing, licensing, and royalty accountings.

## EDUCATION



Shawnassey graduated summa cum laude from Mississippi College School of Law in 1999 and immediately joined Frascogna Entertainment Law. Shawnassey is practices in the firm’s Mobile, Alabama office and is licensed to practice in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.



Shawnassey obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Arts, with a specialization in Radio, Television and Film. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of South Alabama in 1990.

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE



In the music industry, Shawnassey has represented award-winning songwriters and multi-platinum recording artists, independent record labels, and music publishing companies. Her work with musicians has included recording contracts, publishing contracts, agent and management contracts, royalty accountings, licensing and event management.



In the book industry, Shawnassey has represented authors and independent book publishers. She has assisted authors and publishers in book launches, including everything from line editing and proofreading to cover design consultation, budgeting, distribution, and marketing. She has also assisted authors in securing and negotiating film rights contracts.



In the film and television industry, Shawnassey has represented independent film and television productions of all sizes. Shawnassey helps filmmakers with investment prospectuses, budgeting, promotion, distribution deals, production legal, licensing, copyright chain of title, and film incentive management. She also assists television productions in negotiations with networks.

In addition, Shawnassey’s corporate practice includes corporate formation and management, employment issues, intellectual property management, commercial disputes and international business arbitration.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE



Shawnassey began her career as a radio announcer in 1988. She hosted radio programs, provided voiceovers and produced radio advertising until 1995, including a short period as a volunteer for the Caribbean Division of Armed Forces Radio.



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Shawnassey expanded her advertising skills into the print arena, serving as the advertising director for an international specialty toy manufacturer. As part of the toy company's product development team, she was responsible for ad design and placement, catalog development and trade show strategies.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Shawnassey has been an adjunct professor at Mississippi College School of Law since 2001, teaching courses in Counseling and Negotiation and Entertainment Law.

In 2012, the Oxford Film Festival featured Shawnassey as a panelist for their session entitled "Financing Your Independent Film."

Shawnassey was a speaker for the Women's Business Center in 2012, speaking to artists, musicians, authors, and filmmakers on the subject "Art as Business"

Shawnassey served as a panelist for the Mississippi Film Summit in 2011, speaking on the topic "Developing and Funding Your Film."

The Crossroads Film Festival featured Shawnassey as a panelist in 2008 on the topic "Legal and Business Issues for Independent Filmmakers."

## PUBLICATIONS



This Business of Internet Law (2001) - Published by Billboard Books, the book gives a general overview of Internet practices and legal issues.



Entertainment Law for the General Practitioner (2011)- Published by American Bar Association Publishing, the book gives an overview of Entertainment Law, designed as a primer for general practice attorneys.

Basics of Global Film Incentives for Entertainment Lawyers (tentative title) (2014)- Scheduled for fall, 2014 publication by American Bar Association Publishing, the book explains film financing, film incentives and their use in independent film projects.

## ARTICLES

**The Do's and Don'ts of Self-Published Book Promotion** (2013)-Published by Yahoo! Voices, the article discusses promotion for independent authors.

**Funding Basics for the Independent Filmmaker** (2013)-Published by Yahoo! Voices, the article discusses film funding essentials for independent filmmakers.

**How To Sell a Million Records and Still Owe the Record Company Money** (2013)-Published by Yahoo! Voices, the article discusses the pitfalls of traditional record deals.