

NBPA Executive Director, Billy Hunter Keynotes at BESLA Annual Conference

G. William ("Billy") Hunter is no stranger to BESLA and his diverse legal career exemplifies that of many of BESLA's most seasoned and distinguished members. In fact, Hunter says that he and Larkin Arnold, one of BESLA's "statesmen", attended Howard University Law School together. "We both started at Capitol Records". Hunter also has ties to Dick Griffy of Solar Records and Cary Watson through Watson's brother and father, both doctors. In case you haven't kept current with the events of the past year involving the National Basketball Association and its players, Billy Hunter, Executive Director of the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) is credited with helping to forge the solidarity that carried the NBPA through the management imposed lock out which delayed the start of the 1998-99 NBA season for more than two months.

Since then, he has been the driving force behind the increased stature, stability and prestige of the union, particularly at a time when the NBPA faced a number of high profile challenges in addition to the lockout like the Latrell Sprewell arbitration. Recently, Hunter oversaw the union organizing drive which led to the formation of the Women's

National Basketball Players Association (WNBPA) the first of its kind in this country. Both male and female players are enjoying the assurance of maintaining their highly compensated status. In the case of the WNBPA, veteran salaries were doubled and players received year round medical and pension benefits for the first time.

Hunter, a father of three, graduated from Syracuse University in 1965 where he served as captain of the school's football team during his junior and senior years. After graduating he played several seasons for both the Washington Redskins and the Miami Dolphins as a defensive back and kick-returner.

Mr. Hunter received his law degree from Howard University in 1969 and later received a graduate law degree from U. Cal Berkeley in 1970. After serving several years as a prosecutor in the San Francisco District Attorney's office, Mr. Hunter was elevated to the position of First Assistant in the DA's office where he was in charge of felony and misdemeanor prosecutions for the 90-attorney office.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed him as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California, where he served as the top federal law enforcement officer in all of Northern

California. Mr. Hunter was subsequently re-appointed by President Ronald Reagan and served as U.S. Attorney through 1983. In his capacity as U.S. Attorney, Mr. Hunter was in charge of a number of celebrated cases including his successful prosecution of the Hells Angels motorcycle gang on drug charges and the People's Temple cases. It was Mr. Hunter's recommendation that led President Carter to grant a pardon to Patty Hearst.

Following his tenure at the U.S. Attorney's office, Mr. Hunter was engaged in private practice as a partner in several West Coast based law firms. In 1990, he opened his own Oakland based firm, Hunter & Associates specializing in business, entertainment and white collar criminal litigation where he remained until accepting the position as Executive Director of the NBPA.

Hunter, who is married to Janice Hunter, has been reorganizing the NBPA and has expanded its staff. There, Hunter has placed an emphasis on increasing player services delivered by the union to its members. The annual BESLA conference in Puerto Vallarta this year was Mr. Hunter's first visit to a BESLA conference. But if he is at all like BESLA's other distinguished guests, it won't be his last.

1999 Annual Conference Photo Highlights



BLACK ENTERTAINMENT AND
SPORTS LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
19th Annual Conference



Economic Empowerment Strategies in
the Entertainment and Sports Industries

MARRIOTT CASA MAGNA RESORT • PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO • OCTOBER 27-31, 1999

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1999

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. BESLA Board of Directors Meeting
2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Conference Registration
7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Welcome Reception — Vamonos Ve Siesta!
Sponsors: No Limit Entertainment • Zomba Records • Merrill Lynch

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1999

7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Conference Registration
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. SESSION ONE

Seminar 1a: "Can Lawyers Audit-Proof Artist's Recording Contracts?"

Moderator: Fred S. Moultrie, CPA (Consultant, Royalty Compliance Division — Moss Adams, LLP)

Panelists: Raphael Tisdale, Esq. (Former VP, Business & Legal Affairs, Capitol Records) • Jeffrey M. Turner, CPA (Provident Financial Management) • Virgil Roberts, Esq. (Partner — Bobbit & Roberts)

Seminar 1b: "Is Your Lawyer an Agent in Disguise? Avoiding Conflicts of Interest in Talent Representation"

Moderator: Darrell D. Miller, Esq. (Partner, Miller Ranco, LLP)

Panelists: Wendy N. Turner, Esq. (Manager, Magic Johnson Management Group) • Andrea Y. Nelson, Esq. (Creative Artist Agency) • Edwin Hawkins, Esq. (General Counsel, No LimitSports) • William R. Martin, Esq. (Partner, Manott, Phelps & Phillips) • Peter Haviland, Esq. (Partner, Kaye, Scholar, Fierman, Hays & Handler) • Yolanda L. Jackson (Director of Athlete Relations and Communications, Women's Sports Foundation)

10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

ROUNDTABLE: "All Glitter & No Gold"

Participants: Robert Henderson (Henderson Financial Group) • Ted Reid (Morgan Stanley Dean Witter)

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. SESSION TWO

Seminar 2a: "Trends in Syndication Deal Making"

Moderator: Nina L. Shaw, Esq. (Partner — Del, Shaw, Bye & Mooney)

Panelists: Walter Pearcey (President, Black Pearl Entertainment, a joint venture with Warner Bros. Television) • Joel Berman (Co-President, Paramount Pictures Corporation Domestic Television Division)

Seminar 2b: "Death Knell for Sports Agents? A Lawyer's Understanding of the NBA's New Collective Bargaining Agreement"

Moderator: Kenneth L. Shropshire, Esq. (Professor, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania)

Panelists: Ray Moseley (National Sales Manager, AND 1) • William L. Strickland, Esq. (President/CEO, Strickland & Ashe Management, LLC) • John C. Graves (President/CEO, Profile Sports Consultants) • Wendi Huntley, Esq. (President, The SPEC Group, Ltd.)

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

LUNCHEON PROGRAM — "Business Management for Clients in the Entertainment Industry"

Moderator: Vernon Brown, Esq., CPA (V. Brown & Company)

Panelists: Horace Madison, CPA • Solomon Smallwood • Erroll Collier, CPA • Laura Gordon, CPA

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

ROUNDTABLE — "Piloting Your Own Entertainment Law Practice and Avoiding the Turbulence"

Participants: Reggie Osse, Esq. (Partner — Osse & Woods, P.C.) • Virgil Roberts, Esq. (Managing Partner — Bobbit & Roberts) • Ron Sweeney, Esq., (President, Epic Records Group) • Louise C. West, Esq. (President/CEO, West Entertainment Services, Inc.) • John P. Kellogg, Esq. (Law Offices of John P. Kellogg) • Ed Woods, Esq. (Partner — Osse & Woods, P.C.)

Afternoon Free — On Your Own

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Activities: Golf, Tennis

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Dinner on Your Own

Networking Dinner for Students and Recent Practitioners — Puerto Vallarta Marina

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. COMEDY SHOWCASE

Sponsor: Product provided by Tanqueray

Host: Michael Colyar

Comedians: David Raibon • Charles Cozart • Sister Quintella Caldwell

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1999

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Conference Registration

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. SESSION THREE

Seminar 3a: "New Distribution and Marketing Trends for Independent Films: The Lawyer's Perspective"

Moderator: Eugene Haynes (Director of Production & Acquisitions, USA Films)

Panelists: Gary A. Watson, Esq. (Law Offices of Gary A. Watson) • Melissa Kristen Breaux (Director of Development, Harbel Productions and Development Executive, Palm Pictures) • Chepell Chase (Post-Production Technical Producer, The Tape House Editorial Co.) • Nia T. Hill (Executive Producer of Development, Strange Fruit Films) • Monica Harris (Senior Counsel, VH-1 Music First)

Seminar 3b: "Interactive Entertainment 2000: Business & Legal Issues Challenging Minority-Owned New Media Ventures"

Moderator: Marcelino Ford-Livene, Esq. (Counsel for New Media Policy, Federal Communications Commission)

Panelists: Darien Dash (Founder/President/CEO, Digital Media Entertainment, LLC) • Morris L. Reid (Principal, Daway Square Group) • Tatia Williams, Esq. (VP, Business & Legal Affairs, Oxygen Media, LLC) • Tim Cobb, Esq. (Founder/President & CEO, Hipo.com) • Kirsten Albrecht, Esq. (VP, Business & Legal Affairs, Digital Entertainment Network (DEN))