Speaker Biographies

Legal Summit for Software Freedom – October 12, 2007 – Columbia Law School

Eben Moglen, Founding Director

Professor of Law and Legal History at Columbia University Law School. Professor Moglen has represented many of the world's leading free software developers. Professor Moglen earned his PhD in History and law degree at Yale University during what he sometimes calls his "long, dark period" in New Haven. After law school he clerked for Judge Edward Weinfeld of the United States District Court in New York City and to Justice Thurgood Marshall of the United States Supreme Court. He has taught at Columbia Law School – and has held visiting appointments at Harvard University, Tel Aviv University and the University of Virginia – since 1987. In 2003 he was given the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Pioneer Award for efforts on behalf of freedom in the electronic society. Professor Moglen is admitted to practice in the State of New York and before the United States Supreme Court. He is also a director of the Software Freedom Conservancy.

Daniel B. Ravicher, Legal Director

Mr. Ravicher is Legal Director of the Software Freedom Law Center. Prior to joining the founding team at SFLC, Mr. Ravicher was associated with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison, LLP, and Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler, LLP, all in New York, and served the Honorable Randall R. Rader, Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C.. Mr. Ravicher received his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was the Franklin O. Blechman Scholar for his class, a Mortimer Caplin Public Service Award recipient and Editor of the Virginia Journal of Law and Technology, and his bachelors degree in materials science magna cum laude with University Honors from the University of South Florida. Mr. Ravicher has published numerous legal articles and given dozens of presentations regarding Free and Open Source Software legal issues and is an Adjunct Professor at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. He is admitted to practice before the State of New York, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, the Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, the Southern District of New York, the Eastern District of New York, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. He is also a director of the Software Freedom Conservancy.

Richard Fontana, Counsel

Richard Fontana joined SFLC in 2005 after working as an associate at the intellectual property law firm Darby & Darby in New York and Seattle. Earlier in his career he was an associate at Rogers & Wells (now Clifford Chance) in New York, where his work focused on patent and antitrust litigation. Mr. Fontana graduated cum laude from the University of Michigan Law School, where he was an editor of the University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform. He received a master's degree in computer science from

Yale University and a bachelor's degree in history from Wesleyan University. Mr. Fontana is admitted to practice in the State of New York and before the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Matt Norwood, Counsel

Matt Norwood joined the firm in 2006 after finishing his law degree at Columbia Law School, where he was a Stone scholar. He studied computer science and cognitive science as an undergraduate at MIT and wrote his master's thesis in computer science at the MIT Media Lab. Prior to joining SFLC, his work focused on issues of privacy and autonomy for users of software. Mr. Norwood is admitted to practice in the State of New York.

Karen M. Sandler, Counsel

Karen M. Sandler comes to the SFLC after working as an associate in the corporate departments of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in New York and Clifford Chance in New York and London. Sandler received her law degree from Columbia Law School in 2000, where she was a James Kent Scholar and co-founder of the Columbia Science and Technology Law Review. Sandler received her bachelor's degree in engineering from The Cooper Union. She is admitted to practice in the State of New York. She is also an officer of the Software Freedom Conservancy.

James Vasile, Counsel

James Vasile holds a Juris Doctor (JD) from Columbia Law School, where he was a member of the law review and a Stone Scholar. He also has a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from Fordham University. He spent several years in the litigation department of Cravath, Swaine & Moore, where he worked on a range of cases and dealt with a variety of new media issues. Vasile has also contributed code and documentation to numerous FOSS software projects. He is admitted to practice in the State of New York.

Aaron Williamson, Legal Fellow

Aaron Williamson joined SFLC as a legal fellow in 2007, after spending his second law school summer at the firm as an intern in 2006. He received his J.D. from NYU Law, where he co-founded the InfoLaw student group and worked as an Executive Editor on the Journal of Legislation and Public Policy. He studied computer science as an undergraduate at Taylor University, and spent the intervening years clawing his way out of the dot-trough as a database programmer in the healthcare industry.