During the height of the modern day Civil Rights Movement collaboration on litigation and legislation punctuated the relationship between African American attorneys and advocacy organizations. Such a union produced the seminal Supreme Court Case, Brown vs. Board of Education on May 17, 1954, argued by Black attorneys from the Howard Law School.

To commemorate the Brown decision and to formally rejoin Howard Law School and civil rights organizations the Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice along with the Black Leadership Forum will host a discussion on the Exploitation of Black Athletes, Black Artists and their intellectual property, and the impact of International Trade on Black people.

As was the case in 1954, today Black lawyers and Black leaders must fight together on the battlefield of injustice.

Presented by the Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice and The Black Leadership Forum at the Howard University School of Law

MAY 17, 2012
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
(Luncheon at 12 Noon; please rsvp to rpannick@law.howard.edu)
IIPSJ IP and Civil Rights Conference Program

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In the global, information-based economy, political and socio-economic empowerment and advancement is critically dependent upon equitable opportunities to access, develop, and exploit intellectual property and the information technologies which promote pedagogical and entrepreneurial use and dissemination of artistic and inventive achievements and information. Given the history of racial and ethnic cultural misappropriation and related inequitable IP exploitation in America, the concomitant need for inclusive IP protection and use policies is particularly resonant in the African American and similarly marginalized communities seeking improved avenues for equal access to justice and opportunities for political, economic and social equality. Consequently civil rights and social activist groups have broadened their field of focus to impact IP and IT law and policy, so as to account for the interests of minority and other marginalized communities in attaining a stake in the 21st-century global society.

The strategic objective of the IIPSJ IP and Civil Rights Conference is to highlight and examine intellectual property and information technology law and policy issues and developments that are of special importance to the African American and other marginalized communities, whose social, economic, and political security and advancement have been traditionally connected to and dependent upon the civil rights/social activist sphere of influence. The Conference brings together leading IP scholars with respected civil rights and social activists, to explore and develop concrete policies and stratagems to effectuate a more socially equitable and just IP/IT law and policy regime, and to collaborate in the construction of a law and policy schema which will foster the political and socio-economic empowerment of communities of color and other marginalized groups through artistic, technological, and entrepreneurial innovation.

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Conference Agenda

10:00a.m. Welcome & Introductions

Gary Flowers, Esq., Chief Executive Officer, Black Leadership Forum (BLF)

Discussion Issue: Athletes’ Publicity Rights: Exploiting Marginalized Youth

Facilitator: Professor Lateef Mtima, Howard University School of Law
Joe D. Briggs, Esq., Public Policy Counsel NFL Players Association
Professor Roger Groves, Florida Coastal School of Law

Discussion Issue: Using Copyright Termination to Regain Ownership of Black Music

Facilitator: Gary Flowers, Esq., Chief Executive Officer, Black Leadership Forum
Professor K.J. Greene, Thomas Jefferson School of Law
Lita Rosario, Esq., WYZ Girl Entertainment Consulting, LLC

12:00pm LUNCH

Discussion Issue: “IP piracy” and Symbiotic Economic Advancement between Developing and Developed States and Communities

Facilitator: Nicole Lee, President and CEO Trans Africa Forum
Professor Llewllen Gibbons, University of Toledo College of Law
Professor Rita Hiemes, University of Maine School of Law

1:00p.m. Conference Adjournment/Post-Conference Networking Strategy Discussions

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Conference Organizers

The Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice (IIPSJ) was founded in 2002 to address the social justice implications of intellectual property law and practice, both domestically and globally. IIPSJ is dedicated to promoting law and policy development which facilitates and engenders the use of intellectual property to advance social justice objectives, particularly within communities that have been traditionally underserved and underrepresented in IP ownership, exploitation, and use.

Black Leadership Forum (BLF) was founded in 1977 as an alliance of national African American organizations linked together to address the policy interests of Black people. BLF has 51 Member Organizations, 7,500 Chapters and Affiliates, and 13 million members.