Title: The Mechanical Licensing Collective – A Legal Perspective (Updated for 2023)

Length: 60 minutes

Description: The Music Modernization Act (MMA) significantly changed the copyright law with respect to compulsory mechanical licensing of musical works for digital uses. It created a new blanket license and a mechanical licensing collective to administer the license and collect and distribute royalties. The Mechanical Licensing Collective (The MLC) began operating in earnest in 2020, and the blanket license became available on January 1, 2021. This CLE program explores the legal issues the MMA was designed to solve and how it solved them, the implementation of the statutory requirements, technological considerations, and current legal practice implications for attorneys representing musical works owners and administrators and digital music providers.

Outline:

Topic	Details
Intro	• Introduction of speaker and topic
1. Some Basics	• Musical work vs. Sound Recording • Rights and Music Industry Licenses • Voluntary license vs. Compulsory License
2. Mechanical Licensing Before the Music Modernization Act	• How the process worked • Business and legal problems which led to the MMA
3. Mechanical Licensing After the Music Modernization Act	• Key changes in Title 1: Musical Works Modernization Act • How the process was impacted by the changes • The blanket license • The MLC governance
4. How the changes have been implemented	• Timeline of the creation of The MLC • Copyright Royalty Board (CRB) decisions • Federal Regulations
5. Advising the Client (Musical works owners and administrators)	• Who should become a Member of The MLC • Where the MLC fits in the Digital Music Royalties landscape • The MLC Dispute Resolution policy • Terminations and catalog administration changes • "Desktop audits" of musical works data • Where to find more information
6. Advising the Client (DSPs)	• Notice of License process • Reporting requirements • Where to find more information