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Mark E. Avsec is a partner and Vice-Chair of the Innovations, Information Technology & Intellectual Property Practice Group of Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff, LLP. Mr. Avsec provides general legal support to various types of museums, technology, consumer products, media, music, film, software, creative content, and content distribution companies. His practice includes copyright, trademark, and trade dress litigation, copyright and trademark prosecution, fair use and rights of publicity/privacy counseling, and celebrity endorsements.

Before becoming a lawyer, Mr. Avsec earned a living as a studio musician, producer and songwriter, writing over 500 songs and producing or performing on many albums for, among other artists, Carlos Santana (“Angel Love”), Bon Jovi (“She Don’t Know Me”), Donnie Iris (“Ah! Leah!” and “Love Is Like A Rock”), Mason Ruffner (“Gypsy Blood”) and Wild Cherry (“Play That Funky Music, White Boy”). He is an American Music Award winner and has been nominated for two Grammy Awards. He was a member of Wild Cherry and is the founding member of Donnie Iris and the Cruisers.

Mr. Avsec serves as an Adjunct Law Professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, where he has taught “Law of the Music Industry” since 2003. He is also a faculty member at the Great Lakes Sports and Entertainment Academy. He has participated as a faculty member for the Federal Judicial Center and the Berkeley Center for Law & Technology where he has presented on copyright law basics and infringement analysis to federal judges with Professors David Nimmer and Peter Menell at the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt School of Law.

Mr. Avsec is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Contemporary Youth Orchestra, a nonprofit youth orchestra based in Cleveland, Ohio and in residence at Cleveland State University. He is a member of The American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers and is a former chairperson of The Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts section of The Cleveland Bar Association. He serves as a member of the Cleveland Foundation’s Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation Scholarship Fund Selection Committee. He is a member of the Dean’s Visiting Committee of Cleveland State University’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. He has been named an Ohio “Super Lawyer” for Intellectual Property in 2008, 2012, 2013, and 2014, and is a member of the Leadership Cleveland Class of 2014.

Mr. Avsec remains active in the entertainment industry as a writer and a performer, regularly performing as keyboard player with Donnie Iris and the Cruisers, Michael Stanley, and occasionally with The James Gang, featuring Joe Walsh, Jimmy Fox, and Dale Peters.