

Sterling, Christopher H. and Eric J. Schwartz. “Workshop: The National Recording Preservation Board and its Work”

In 2000, Congress created the National Recording Preservation Board within the Library of Congress. It was re-authorized in 2008. The NRPB parallels the earlier National Film Preservation Board as both boards annually nominate (to the Librarian of Congress) the finest examples of film and recorded sound to be preserved as part of the nation’s cultural patrimony. In addition to selecting films or recordings for these national “registries,” the two boards are also charged with studying preservation and access issues related to film and recorded sound. Handout materials on both boards—and the new Packard Center where this material is archived for the Library of Congress—will be provided at the session.

NRPB is made up of a number of at large members as well as representatives of relevant music and recording organizations:

- The music copyright associations (ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC);
- The American Federation of Musicians;
- Relevant societies and associations (the American Folklore Society, the American Musicological Society, the Country Music Foundation, the National Academy of Popular Music, and the Society For Ethnomusicology);
- Technical groups (the Audio Engineering Society, the Digital Media Association);
- Libraries and archives (the Association for Recorded Sound Collections, the Music Library Association, and the National Archives and Records Administration); and
- Elements of the music business (the National Association of Recording Merchandisers, the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, and the Recording Industry Association of America).

Eric J. Schwartz has more than 20 years of experience as a copyright lawyer and as a film (and more recently, music) preservationist. As a copyright lawyer Eric has represented film, music, music publishing and book authors, producers, and users, as well as working with large and small archives across the U.S. on preservation and access issues. For example, Eric is currently working with the Universal Music Group on issues pertaining to the preservation and storage of their master collection (1920s to present), and also working with George Eastman House Film Archive on a variety of matters. Eric helped establish the National Film Preservation Board in 1988 and still serves as pro bono counsel, was the founding director (in 1996) and is a current Board Member of the National Film Preservation Foundation. He is also a Board Member of the Library of Congress' National Recording Preservation Board (since 2003).

Eric J. Schwartz, Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP, Washington, DC , and **Christopher H. Sterling**, George Washington University, Washington, DC