



LADYVILLE ICI REHEARSAL SPACE BELIZE 2021



Our MTSU/International Classroom Initiative (ICI) Rehearsal Space is far improved with acoustical materials, air conditioning, beautiful flooring and a new stage. Out of this shot are high wall-mounted Marshall amplifiers – all a part of the \$50,000 value shipment of audio and musical gear from MTSU in 2018, at long last hauled over land through Mexico, after Hurricane Hugo prevented its intended shipping from Houston to Belize harbor. David Medina (MT CIM Alumnus) is a benefactor of our program and a signatory, along with the Music Industry Association of Belize, to a 2017 Memorandum of Understanding with MTSU. This MOU was in addition to two existing MOU's with both the University of Belize (signed in 2016 by the respective University Presidents) and Stonetree Records (with Producer Ivan Duran in 2015). The Ladyville space has taken years longer than intended, further delayed by COVID-19 inability to travel to Belize in Summers 2020-2021, but we now have a true operational “venue” for events, conferences, and most of all, performances by students and young Belizean talent. We officially launched the room in June 2019 with MTSU Department of Recording Industry students. This Ladyville facility can now also be our MTSU Belize venue for our initial webinar we are planning for Fall 2021. Musician Andre' Medina is our studio manager and will assist ICI with Zoom meetings and live activities from the Rehearsal Space in the future, including our full return with MTSU students in May 2022.

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International Classroom Initiative Journal: Belize, Central America (2014-2016) Vol. 1 is the first volume in a series of immersive and enlightening scholarly journals that focus on specific international regions with respect to their unique character, relevant international and intellectual property laws, and developing markets for media and entertainment. This volume takes readers to Belize, an English-speaking portal into Central America with a burgeoning entertainment industry and a legal environment ripe with challenges and opportunities from which students can learn.

The journal begins with legal research, cases, and commentary cultivated by Professor Deborah Wagnon while leading the International Classroom Initiative (ICI) to Belize from 2014 to 2016. Readers learn about the ongoing legal tension between Belize and Guatemala, trademark law and entrepreneurship, the government institutions involved in building Belize's infrastructure, the current state of the entertainment industry in Belize, and the arts including Belizean music. In Part Two, select students who participated in the Belize ICI share their research, writing, and commentary, which serves to illuminate their personal insights, discoveries, and learnings.

Similar in style to a law review journal, but unique and targeted in subject matter, *International Classroom Initiative Journal: Belize, Central America (2014-2016) Vol. 1* is well-suited for courses in entertainment industry, music business, intellectual property law, copyright law, international business, political science and international diplomacy. The journal is also an invaluable resource for university study abroad programs as it demonstrates the rich opportunities and experiences available to students exclusively through international study programs.

Deborah Wagnon is a practicing entertainment and IP attorney with her own firm, Portia Entertainment Group LLC, tenured associate professor in the Department of Recording Industry, College of Media and Entertainment at Middle Tennessee State University, and the founder and faculty leader of the International Classroom Initiative. She earned her Juris Doctorate of Law from Stanford Law School, where she studied in a joint degree program for the Law and Communication schools, her master's degree in creative writing from Goddard College, and her undergraduate degree in management from Georgia Tech. Prior to joining the faculty at Middle Tennessee State University, Professor Wagnon served as general counsel for Landmark Entertainment Group, Inc. in Hollywood, and as a partner in major international law firms based in Los Angeles, Nashville, and Atlanta.

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