

2009

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Brochure

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## Recommended Citation

Brochure, "Noted Copyright Lawyer William F. Patry Decries Overprotection of Copyright" (2009). *Intellectual Property Law*. Paper 15.

<http://digitalcommons.law.ggu.edu/iplaw/15>

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### **Noted Copyright Lawyer William F. Patry Decries Overprotection of Copyright**

*Google's senior copyright counsel argues that unchecked expansion of copyright is stifling innovation before a packed audience at Golden Gate Law*

In late January, William F. Patry, senior copyright counsel for Google, Inc., delivered the inaugural Distinguished Speaker Series sponsored by the Golden Gate University Intellectual Property Law Center. In an impassioned and entertaining talk titled “When is Too Much Enough? The Humpty Dumpty State of Copyright,” Patry argued that the expansion of copyright in recent years unduly rewards copyright owners—“granting them astonishingly broad rights they really don’t deserve”—while suppressing new business models and technologies.

“There has been an incredible consolidation of copyright ownership,” he told the large crowd of students, faculty, and practitioners. “We’ve gotten away from the primary purpose of copyright, which is to serve the public good.” Delivering his speech on Inauguration Day, Patry echoed President Barack Obama’s call for “A New Era of Responsibility.”

He added, “I consider myself totally pro-copyright owner. But too much of anything is a bad thing.”

Few practitioners are as familiar with US copyright—or as familiar to copyright practitioners—as William Patry. He served as copyright counsel to the US House of Representatives and policy planning advisor to the Register of Copyrights. His books include the influential treatise *Patry on Copyright* (Thomson West, 2007), and his Patry Copyright Blog was extremely popular before he shut it down last year, in part because of his disenchantment with the state of copyright law.

“Bill Patry gave our students an extraordinary insider’s glimpse into the world of copyright,” says Intellectual Property Law Center Co-Director and Associate Professor William Gallagher. “His fascinating anecdotes and up-to-the minute reports on pressing copyright cases offered insights that students won’t find in their textbooks. We were honored to have him speak on campus and look forward to bringing more IP luminaries to Golden Gate Law in the future.”