



Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts

Presents:

Ethics in Documentary & Reality-Based Programming

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 25th, 2010 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: DCTV, 87 Lafayette Street (Between Walker and White Streets)

***2.5 Transitional CLE Credits in Ethics (Available to All Attorneys)**

Join us for a conversation with lawyers and filmmakers about ethics in documentary and reality based programming. While formal standards of ethics exist for professional journalists, such standards do not exist in documentary and reality based programming. As a result, documentary filmmakers and producers of reality-based programs appear to decide ethical conflicts in a more ad-hoc manner. This conversation will cover what ethical norms exist and the issues that face every documentary filmmaker and other creators in balancing their relationships with their subjects and their viewers with practical concerns such as cost and ease of production. Our conversation will touch on the September 2009 study published by the Center for Social Media at the American University entitled “Honest Truths: Documentary Filmmakers on Ethical Challenges in Their Work as well as the Code of Ethics subscribed to by the members of Society of Professional Journalists; class attendees are asked to review that information in advance to get the most out of the panel.

To register, please complete this registration form. **All registration fees are non-refundable.** For more information, please call Joni Todd at 212.319.2787 x10.

Registration Fees:

- Full Time Student \$20 (must bring valid student ID to class)
- Arts Professional VLA Member: \$25
- VLA Legal Professional Member: \$130
- Arts Professional Non-VLA member: \$35
- Legal Professional Non-Member: \$150

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address, City, Zip: _____

Organization: _____

Panel:

Jon Alpert
Co-Founder, Co-Director, Video Producer, Reporter, DCTV

Maro Chermayeff
Founder and Chairman of the MFA Program in Social Documentary at
The School of Visual Arts

Elena M. Paul, Esq.
Executive Director, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts

Peter Rienecker, Esq.,
Vice President and Senior Counsel, Original Programming, HBO, Inc.

Please see reverse for additional biographical information.

1. To Pay By Check: Please **mail** this form along with your check payable to “VLA” to the address listed below.

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Panel Includes:

Jon Alpert is the co-founder and co-director, of the Downtown Community Television Center (DCTV). At DCTV, Alpert also contributes as a video producer and reporter. Over the past thirty years, Jon Alpert has distinguished himself as an award-winning journalist. He has won three Primetime Emmys, eleven National News & Documentary Emmys and one National Sports Emmy. He has also won 3 Columbia-DuPont awards, a Peabody, and numerous other honors. He is unique among reporters because in addition to his awards for content he has won multiple Emmys in the craft categories - for his camerawork and editing. He is credited - or blamed - as one of the originators of the one-man-band verite style of reporting.

Alpert has consistently gained unprecedented access to world leaders and historic events during the past four decades - the first American TV reporter in Vietnam after the war - interviews with Fidel Castro and Saddam Hussein - battlefield coverage from Angola to Afghanistan, Cambodia to Central America. Alpert has a history of bringing visibility to the invisible and his reports from around the world and all parts of the United States have been widely broadcasted on *HBO* and on *NBC, ABC, CBS, PBS, ESPN* and *NHK*. DCTV is one of the United States largest and most honored non-profit community media centers. DCTV is located in a landmark firehouse in New York City's Chinatown.

Maro Chermayeff is a producer, director, author, and former television executive whose numerous documentary films and television programs have toured the world in prestigious festivals, played theatrically, broadcast on prime time television and won numerous awards. She has made films and series television for PBS, HBO, A&E, Turner Networks/TRU TV, TLC, Bravo, Discovery, France 2 and Channel 4UK.

Maro is a Founder and Chairman of the MFA Program in Social Documentary at The School of Visual Arts in New York City, launching in the Fall of 2009. She is a former faculty member of New York University's Graduate School of Film and Television where she taught for four years.

Elena M. Paul, Esq. is VLA's Executive Director. In addition to being VLA's CEO, Ms. Paul represents artists and arts organizations on a pro bono basis. She also serves as development consultant for various cultural and arts projects in addition to television, film and theatrical productions. Ms Paul lectures nationally and teaches on a variety of arts and entertainment topics in a variety of settings, including SXSW, The School of Visual Arts, The Brooklyn Arts Council, Columbia Law School, and Harvard Law School. Ms. Paul serves as Adjunct Professor at the Brooklyn Law School and the New York Film Academy. Prior to VLA, Ms. Paul was the Executive Director of Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts (WALA). Before WALA, Ms. Paul acted as University Counsel in the Office of the President at the University of Maryland, College Park. Prior to this position, Ms. Paul served as an attorney at two major national law firms in DC practicing corporate and real estate law. Ms. Paul received her Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Davidson College, *phi beta kappa*, and her Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. In 2000, Ms. Paul was elected to serve as a Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow at Harvard Law School.

Peter Rienecker, Esq. is Vice President and Senior Counsel, Original Programming, HBO, Inc.