



Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts
Presents

Social & Legal Issues in Fashion Series:
The Role of Social Media and Virtual Reality

Date: Tuesday, November 9th, 2010 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Location: Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
4 Times Square, New York, NY 10036

\*2.0 CLE Credits, 1 Professional Practice and 1 Skills, (Approved for Non-Transitional and Transitional Attorneys)

This third workshop in a four part series points its lens at the role of new media in shaping and redefining fashion. New media --fashion blogs; street fashion; social media like Twitter and Facebook; virtual worlds like Second Life; online luxury from the Gilt Group --are radically transforming what constitutes fashion and who has access to it.

To register, please complete this registration form. All registration fees are non-refundable. Please note, you are not registered until full payment is received. You will receive a confirmation email approximately one week prior to the class.

Registration Fees: (There is an additional \$10 fee if you register the day of the class)
[ ] Arts Professional VLA Member: \$25
[ ] Arts Professional Non-Member: \$35
[ ] Full-Time Student: \$20 (must bring valid student I.D. to class)
[ ] Legal Professional VLA Member: \$130
[ ] Legal Professional Non-Member: \$150
[ ] Additional individuals from the same start-up organization may register for an additional \$25 each
Instructors: Anna E. Akbari, Ph.D. Closet Catharsis
Elena M. Paul, Esq. VLA Executive Director
Please see reverse for additional biographical information.

Name: [ ] Legal Professional [ ] Artist [ ] Organization
Phone: E-mail:
Address/ City/ State/ Zip:
Organization: Workshop Date:

Payment Type:
[ ] Check: Please mail form along with your check payable to "Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts" to our address below
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How did you hear about this class? [ ] Facebook [ ] Myspace [ ] Twitter [ ] VLA e-blast [ ] VLA Website [ ] Other



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## Instructor Bios:

**Anna E. Akbari Ph.D.**, teaches in the department of Media, Culture, and Communication at New York University. Her research interests include visual and virtual self-presentation, mediated identity, fashion studies, visual culture, and body politics. She is the founder of Closet Catharsis, her wardrobe consulting company. In addition, she is currently working on several book projects and is a freelance marketing consultant.

While attending graduate school, she co-founded Brainwright, a New York-based business that connected skilled, working arts and humanities professionals with students of all ages and levels for private coaching. A former Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic, Ms. Akbari founded and managed the Mao Foundation for Bellas Artes, a nonprofit music foundation which raised scholarship money to train Dominican piano students as teachers. She also has a background in theater. A graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy, she has recorded radio voice-overs, taught numerous children's theater workshops, performed in a variety of theatrical productions, and is the former host of Manhattan Neighborhood Network's "Ranting and Raving Reviews," on which she interviewed celebrities like Ben Kingsley and Jennifer Connelly.

Ms. Akbari received her Ph.D. in Sociology from The New School for Social Research, holds an M.A. in Liberal Studies from The New School, and a B.A. in Religious Studies and Middle Eastern Studies from NYU. She is the recipient of the NYU Prize in Religious Studies, the New School University Fellowship, and the Discover Card Tribute Award.

**Elena M. Paul, Esq.**, is the Executive Director of the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA), the leading provider of pro bono legal services, educational programs, and advocacy to the arts community. In addition to overseeing VLA's programs and services, Ms. Paul counsels and represents artists and arts organizations, specializing in corporate and contractual matters. She also serves as development consultant for various cultural and arts projects in addition to television, film and theatrical productions. Ms. Paul creates many of VLA's original programs, including the VLA Clinic; the Statewide Service Initiative; the VLA Legal and Business Boot Camp for Arts Professionals; and Ask the Lawyer. Ms. Paul lectures nationally on a variety of arts and entertainment topics, including contracts for arts professionals, intellectual property, fundraising and institutional development, creating nonprofit, tax-exempt corporations, and forming for-profit arts businesses. Ms. Paul serves as an Adjunct Professor at the New York Film Academy as well as the Brooklyn Law School. She also serves on the Board of the Friends of the French Culinary Institute and was appointed to the Art Collection Advisory Committee for Davidson College.

Prior to joining VLA, Ms. Paul was the Executive Director of Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts (WALA). Ms. Paul also counseled and represented clients at WALA, specializing in corporate and contract matters. In 1998, she restructured WALA's client services into a clinical format and expanded the law student internship program to include client representation, legal research and writing opportunities. Before joining WALA in August 1998, Ms. Paul acted as University Counsel in the Office of the President at the University of Maryland, College Park. In that position, Ms. Paul was responsible for the legal aspects of all of the University's major transactions, contracts, construction, and real estate projects, including handling the largest procurement to date in the State of Maryland (\$750 million). Prior to this position, Ms. Paul served as an attorney at two major national law firms in DC, Patton Boggs and Bryan Cave, where she practiced corporate and real estate law.

Ms. Paul grew up in Gainesville, Florida and graduated from the Gainesville Public High School. She 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.