Five questions for Stan Soocher[1]
[2]

Like countless teens in the ’60s, Stan Soocher found inspiration in the Beatles. He was 14 when he joined a band and echoed Ringo Starr’s beat on the likes of “You Can’t Do That,” “Ticket to Ride” and “Day Tripper.”

Years later, career carried him away from the drum kit and into courtrooms and classrooms. An associate professor of music and entertainment industry studies in the College of Arts and Media at CU Denver, Soocher also is an entertainment attorney and editor of a trade publication, Entertainment Law & Finance[3].

“My teaching and research are closely connected,” Soocher said. “I've taught courses ranging from ‘Law and the Music Industry’ to ‘Current Issues in Music Business,’ ‘Music Business Senior Seminar’ and ‘International Music Business,’ among others. I taught a course I developed, ‘American Music Goes to Court,’ at the International College of Beijing. Last May, along with Recording Arts faculty member Leslie Gaston-Bird, I co-taught the Music and Entertainment Industry Studies Department’s first International Music Industry Study Abroad Program in England. It included a trip with the students to Liverpool and visits to Beatles sites.”

Soocher paired his expertise in law and love of the Fab Four by writing “Baby You’re a Rich Man: Suing the Beatles for Fun and Profit”[4] (ForeEdge/University Press of New England). Published in September, the book examines the many court battles involving John, Paul, George and Ringo, their music and business dealings.

1. Why did you choose the Beatles? So many books have been written about them; was the task daunting?

I received an inquiry from the acquisition editor at University Press of New England about whether I had any ideas for a music business book. Focusing fully on Beatles legal issues seemed natural, based on my teaching and on my background as an entertainment industry lawyer and journalist.

It helped a lot that I already had a fairly deep background in covering Beatles legal issues. The first time was in 1981 for The National Law Journal, covering the criminal proceeding of Mark David Chapman for the murder of John Lennon. I was in the courtroom when Chapman entered his guilty plea. Beginning in the mid-1980s, as founding editor of the monthly publication Entertainment Law & Finance (from the company that produces American Lawyer, The National Law Journal and many other publications in the legal field), I began tracking Beatles’ litigations on an ongoing basis. During that time, the Beatles’ chief U.S. litigator Leonard Marks wrote an article for Entertainment Law & Finance on the band’s epic music royalty battle against Capitol-EMI Records. When the Beatles and the record label settled their dispute in 1989, I covered it for Rolling Stone in a piece that also was nationally syndicated in newspapers and won an award for “Excellence in Music Journalism” from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

But, yes, writing an entire book about the Beatles was a daunting task. What also helped was that the Beatles have always been a band with so many levels and dimensions that even today, decades after they broke up, new insights and information still emerge. Hopefully, “Baby You’re a Rich Man” adds to that.

2. How did you go about the research?

The book took 3 1/2 years to research and write, with the benefit of a sabbatical to support it. My main goal was to dig as deep as possible into the court archives of both well-known and not-so-well-known Beatles legal disputes. I started out collecting court documents from Beatles-related cases from the early 1960s to recent years, but there was so much material, thousands upon thousands of pages, that for the sake of narrative flow I focused “Baby You’re a Rich Man” mostly up through 1980, while all four Beatles were alive.

I interviewed some of the surviving lawyers from those cases. And I traveled to court archives in New York, England, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Palm Beach and the National Archives in Kansas City that houses federal cases from New York. To my delight, I uncovered many case documents with original inked signatures, such as those of George

Harrison, John Lennon, Yoko Ono and the Beatles' first manager, Brian Epstein.

Most importantly, the court records from the many lawsuits the Beatles as a group and as individuals were involved in provide fascinating connections between their music, who they were as people and the impact of Beatles business concerns on both.

3. Is it possible to total how many times the Beatles were sued?

You could call it "A Day In the Life," it was so common, because the Beatles sued or were sued a mind-boggling number of times through their band years and for decades after that over group and individual issues. So it's dozens upon dozens of lawsuits. In "Baby You're a Rich Man," I wrote about Beatles intra-band issues as well as early merchandise lawsuits, lawsuits by them and against them involving their last manager Allen Klein, John Lennon's hard-fought fight against U.S. immigration authorities to become a permanent U.S. resident, and the notorious copyright infringement suits against Lennon over "Come Together" and George Harrison over "My Sweet Lord."

4. Of the lawsuits you write about, do any stand out as most frivolous and most warranted?

One of the most frivolous may have been a lawsuit former Beatles manager Allen Klein filed against George Harrison in 1974 in an attempt to take over George's song publishing. The suit happened in the middle of the legal complaints that flew back and forth after Harrison, John Lennon and Ringo Starr terminated Klein's management relationship with them in 1973. The Beatles charged Klein with financial mismanagement. At the same time, Klein's company ABKCO had been the U.S. income conduit for George Harrison. When the IRS demanded $18,000 in back taxes and New York City demanded $4,000 in corporate taxes from George's Harrisongs publishing company, Klein claimed he had to sue George to get ABKCO out of the line of fire. But it was really a ruse for Klein to seize ownership of George's lucrative music catalog — including "Something," "Here Comes the Sun" and "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" — for a relative pittance. That never happened, though, because George did settle the tax issues with the taxing authorities.

As for the most warranted lawsuit, my answer will be controversial for Beatles fans: It was the complaint Paul McCartney filed against the other three Beatles in London on Dec. 31, 1970, to break up the Beatles band partnership (though the group's central business entity survives today as Apple Corps). Looking back, it was Paul's justified bid to oust Allen Klein from the Beatles' business orbit.

5. Did any of the Beatles have legal acumen?

No, few musicians of their day did. Today there's a lot more information available to musicians, through numerous books available about the business of being a musician and music business programs like the one we have in CU Denver's College of Arts and Media.

Funeral services scheduled for UCCS Officer Swasey[5]

Lynda.com access might be expanded[6]

Lynda.com[7], a learning website that features educational videos on a variety of topics, is closer to being accessible to more CU campuses and staff members, something the University of Colorado Staff Council (UCSC) has pushed for as it examines professional development opportunities at the university.

Kathy Nesbitt, vice president of Employee and Information Services, told the council during its Nov. 19 meeting at 1800 Grant St. that the opportunity to expand the existing contract now depends on individual budgets for each campus.

Currently, anyone affiliated with the Boulder campus – including students – has access to the site's videos for free.

Nesbitt also updated the council on other items of interest to staff members. She said conversations continue about a more consistent tuition benefit across campuses. Because each campus is accredited differently and operates independently, including the way dollars are budgeted, finding a one-size-fits-all solution has been elusive.

"If it was just a dollar issue, we could recommend that we skinny up the benefit – say two credit hours – and everyone could use it," Nesbitt said. But the issue is more complex, especially with expected cuts in state funding in the coming years. If the tuition benefit is boosted systemwide, she said, it's likely that another benefit would have to be reduced.

The Board of Regents' Laws and Policies Committee has asked that the articles that govern the entire CU system be reviewed. Governance groups, including UCSC, will be involved in the review and revision process, which is expected to take anywhere from 18 months to two years. Nesbitt said such a comprehensive review has not been performed for several years and the process will be similar to the way the university has reviewed its own Administrative Policy Statements.

Tony DeCrosta, chief plan administrator at the University of Colorado Health and Welfare Trust, gave an overview of health insurance plans available to CU employees. Currently, the plans cover about 63,000 lives. Given the size of the plans, he said, the Trust is able to negotiate good prices on benefits. The Trust also includes University of Colorado Hospital and University Physicians Inc., so that decisions on benefits and other plan options must be approved by all the partners.

"Because we aren't one single employer, we don't have the same nimbleness" when it comes to adding benefits or changing premiums, for instance, he said.

The Trust was formed in 2010. Because the plans are self-funded – essentially meaning insurance company fees have been cut out of the process – CU has saved about $42 million, which has been passed down to members in the form of lower premiums or better benefits.

Because the Trust is liable for all its members, a wellness program has been an important part of the plans.

"The healthier we are, the cheaper it is for us. Some health issues can be avoided, and less expensive insurance rates should be an incentive for all of us to improve our health," DeCrosta said. He added that, in general, the Trust is on the leading edge in terms of value of benefits offered.

He acknowledged that insurance plans can be hard to understand and the Trust is developing consumer tools to help people make sense of the plans and choose the type of plan that is best for them.

The council's third guest of the day was Regent Kyle Hybl, chair of the board. He discussed the board's mission and guiding principles and the university's strategic priorities, which are student success, financial aid, research awards and other revenue.

"We want the university to reflect the communities in which we live," he said, and with state funding for higher education dwindling, the university has dedicated more efforts to awarding scholarships – including more merit scholarships – to students. In addition, the regents' diversity and inclusion initiative includes a pre-collegiate program to help increase retention on all campuses.

At the same time, Hybl said, the regents work to support the exceptional programs at the university, including engineering, aerospace and medical assets.

In other business at the council's Nov. 19 meeting:
Todd Saliman, vice president and chief financial officer, reported to the Board of Regents that in the past fiscal year, $40 million in efficiencies were recorded systemwide. More than half of that amount -- $27 million – resulted from the switch to a single vendor for employee retirement plans. A systemwide strategic plan on diversity and inclusion is moving forward and is currently being discussed by administration leaders. Nesbitt said the plan includes every

discipline, from advancement to recruitment, and likely will be released soon. UCSC has been authorized to conduct a systemwide employee survey to determine preferences concerning personal development opportunities, an anti-bullying policy and other issues of concern. The new, streamlined nomination process for Service Excellence Awards will be rolled out in early December. The awards honor one person from each campus and system administration who has provided exemplary service to both the university and the community.

Colorado launch firm picks CU-Boulder for first free ride to space[8]

Typically weighing in at 3 pounds and no bigger than a box of facial tissue, a CubeSat is small yet more than capable of carrying scientific payloads into space. For years, university students like those at CU-Boulder have developed these mission-ready, miniaturized satellites affordably.

What isn't so affordable is getting them into space.

That's changing: United Launch Alliance (ULA), the Centennial-based launch service provider, is promising free rides to space for university STEM work on future Atlas V missions. ULA's Nov. 19 announcement of the new program at the Capitol prominently featured CU-Boulder, and with good reason.

"The first free ride to space for a CubeSat is going to be your ride," said ULA President and CEO Tory Bruno as he introduced CU-Boulder Chancellor Philip DiStefano.

"We're delighted that CU-Boulder students have been offered the first spot," said DiStefano, who noted that CU students have been building satellites for 20 years. CU-Boulder has launched six missions with ULA since 2006.

Also appearing at last month's news conference was Lt. Gov. Joseph Garcia, who also serves as the state's executive director of the Department of Higher Education.

"This is exactly the kind of collaborative innovation that we celebrate in Colorado," Garcia said. "Here, we have a Colorado company giving Colorado students at a Colorado university an unbelievable opportunity to send a satellite into space. What a great day for our state."

A typical CubeSat is a 4-inch cube designed to support research, science, communication and Earth observation. ULA has launched 55 CubeSat payloads to date.

The value of sharing a ride is considerable, given that a rocket launch costs tens of millions of dollars. Rocket capacity could allow ULA to sell up to 12 CubeSat spots on each upcoming commercial mission. But three of those spots on both of the next two missions, the first of which is in 2017, will be awarded free to U.S. universities who compete for them.

"This is really opening up an opportunity for our engineering and science students, and it supports the development of future technologies," said Scott Palo, associate dean for research in Aerospace Engineering Sciences at CU-Boulder. "It's also very relevant to the Grand Challenge[9]."

Bruno said ULA aims to eventually add university CubeSat slots to nearly all Atlas and Vulcan launches.

"There is a growing need for universities to have access and availability to launch their CubeSats and this program will transform the way these universities get to space by making space more affordable and accessible," Bruno said.

Read more on how ULA will allocate the university spots here.[10]

Bioscience 2 called 'spectacular facility' [11]

New initiative aims to address gaps in infrastructure funding [12]

Dukakis shares life, wisdom during Prologue Series appearance[13]

Frye named associate dean[14]

A nine year UCCS faculty member will serve as the associate dean of the College of Education.

Sussel named research director at Barbara Davis Center[15]

The Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes has named Lori Sussel director of its Basic and Translational Research Division.

Sussel's most recent position is with the Department of Genetics and Development and the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center at Columbia University Medical Center in New York. She has served there as co-director of the university's Integrated Program of Cellular, Molecular Biomedical Science Graduate Program and as co-principal investigator of a federally funded Endocrinology Training Grant.

Sussel previously was an assistant professor and an associate professor at the Barbara Davis Center before moving to Columbia in 2007. Sussel will return in a part-time capacity in January and will transition into full-time in April 2016.

Tompkins collaborating with Denver firefighters[16]

Phillip K. Tompkins, emeritus professor of communication comparative literature at CU-Boulder, is working with firefighters in the Denver area to implement recommendations in his book, "Managing Risk and Complexity Through Open Communication and Teamwork," which was published in August.

He signed the best-selling book, published by Purdue University Press, in August at the Tattered Cover Book Store and in October at Purdue University. While there, he also met with archivists and an oral historian to record an interview with him about his experiences as summer faculty consultant to Wernher von Braun, director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center during the Apollo Program, which successfully placed a man on the moon. Tompkins has tentatively agreed to donate his NASA papers to the Purdue University Archives.

While at Purdue, Tompkins also delivered the inaugural Phil Tompkins Distinguished Lecture[17], which was organized by the Brian Lamb School of Communication.

Eleven CU-Boulder faculty, staff teams offered entrepreneurship awards[18]

CU Cancer Center scientist serves as STEM role model[19]

Faculty get grants to improve teaching[20]

In memoriam[21]

Names of current and former University of Colorado faculty and staff who have died in recent weeks. List compiled by Employee Services.

CU-Boulder
John M. Wahr, 64, faculty retiree emeritus. Nov. 11, 2015.
CU Denver
William G. Trobaugh, 71, faculty retiree. Nov. 13, 2015.
CU Anschutz Medical Campus
Charlotte Gordy, 80, classified staff retiree. Nov. 7, 2015.

Buechner Breakfast First Friday[22]

ProComp and Denver Teacher Pay: The Road Ahead

More registration information will be available as the date nears.

The Future of Transportation in Denver Summit[23]

Panelists:
Emily Castor, Director of Transportation Policy at Lyft Crissy Fanganello, Director of Transportation, City and County of Denver Dave Genova, Interim General Manager and CEO, Regional Transportation District (RTD) Wesley Marshall, Associate Professor, University of Colorado Denver David Sachs, Editor Manager, Streetsblog Denver
Free to CU Denver students and faculty, and a small fee for ITE/WTS/APA members ($5) and non-members ($10). Lunch included. Networking and participation opportunities.

For more information and to register: http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-future-of-transportation-in-denver-summit-tickets-19212451961?aff=es2[24]

51st Annual Colorado Business Economic Outlook[25]

Join the Leeds School of Business at the 2016 Colorado Business Economic Outlook Forum at the Grand Hyatt Denver. The Colorado Business Economic Outlook is the longest-running sector-level forecast of the Colorado economy and will be presented on December 7. The annual forecast is developed by the Business Research Division, as well as volunteers and industry partners from across the state, including Grand Junction, Durango and Pueblo. The 2016 forecast features an analysis of changes that took place in industry sectors during the past year and looks at the events and activities that will shape changes in population and employment, and in the overall economy in 2016.

Brought to you by
Leeds School of Business
University of Colorado Boulder

Schedule of Events
1:00 - Welcome by Leeds School
1:15 - Colorado Economic Outlook for 2016: Richard Wobbekind
2:15 - Keynote Address - Kent Thiry, Chairman and CEO, DaVita HealthCare Partners
3:00 - Industry Discussion Sessions
4:30 - Networking Reception

Industry Discussion Sessions and Locations:

Colorado Real Estate: How Long Will the Boom Last? Colorado Ballroom
Workforce Strategies: Connecting Workers to Jobs in Colorado Mt. Sopris A
Making Sense of Commodities Prices Mt. Sopris B

Click here for more information and to register.[26]

Professional Development Business Speaker Series featuring Corey Ciocchetti[27]

More info: http://southdenver.cu.edu/events/event/speaker-series-corey/[28]

Garrett Swasey, Officer Killed in Colorado, Is Recalled for Courage and Faith[29]

CU-Boulder sees 41 percent response rate to sexual misconduct survey [30]

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http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1611683807?redirect=true&ref_=s9_simh_gw_p14_d11_i1[5]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/funeral-services-scheduled-uccs-officer-swasey[6]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/lyndacom-access-might-be-expanded[7] http://www.lynda.com/[8]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/colorado-launch-firm-picks-cu-boulder-first-free-ride-space[9]
http://www.colorado.edu/grandchallenges/[10] http://www.ulalaunch.com/cubesats.aspx[11]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/bioscience-2-called-spectacular-facility[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-initiative-aims-address-gaps-infrastructure-funding[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/dukakis-shares-life-wisdom-during-prologue-series-appearance[14] https://connections.cu.edu/people/frye-named-associate-dean[15]
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https://connections.cu.edu/people/memoriam-31[22] https://connections.cu.edu/events/buechner-breakfast-first-friday[23] https://connections.cu.edu/events/future-transportation-denver-summit[24] http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-future-of-transportation-in-denver-summit-tickets-19212451961?aff=es2[25] https://connections.cu.edu/events/51st-annual-colorado-business-economic-outlook[26] http://www.colorado.edu/business/centers/business-research-division/research/51st-annual-colorado-business-economic-outlook[27] https://connections.cu.edu/events/professional-development-business-speaker-series-featuring-corey-ciocchetti[28] http://southdenver.cu.edu/events/event/speaker-series-corey/[29] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/garrett-swasey-officer-killed-colorado-recalled-courage-and-faith[30]
https://connections.cu.edu/itn/cu-boulder-sees-41-percent-response-rate-sexual-misconduct-survey