

## So You Want to Start a Band? Brooks Pierce Partner to Present at International Bluegrass Music Association's 2015 Business Conference

September 18, 2015

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Brooks Pierce partner Coe W. Ramsey will lead a session on legal matters related to forming and operating a band including songwriting, copyrighting, publishing, entity formation, liability protection, management, band name ownership, recording and publishing agreements, and other music-related legal issues at the International Bluegrass Music Association's (IBMA) Business Conference, being held in Raleigh from September 29 through October 1.

His presentation, "Band 101: So You Want to Start a Band?" on Tuesday, September 29, is one of four legal seminars being offered to help artists, songwriters, bands, labels, publishers, agents, promoters and others in the music business and their lawyers expand their knowledge of current legal issues and trends impacting the industry.

"Being in a band is not just about getting a group of musicians together to create great music, but can be an increasingly complex process with many legal and business issues that artists are often unprepared to face, particularly when that 'big break' occurs for one or all of the band members," Ramsey said. "I look forward to helping musicians, and their team, prepare for these challenges as they continue in their careers."

A former disc jockey, Ramsey has a diverse entertainment law practice that includes matters related to music, radio, television, film and publishing. He represents numerous musicians, including having represented the members of the band Absent Element in a lawsuit against former band member and American Idol contestant Chris Daughtry. Ramsey also teaches entertainment law as an adjunct professor at Wake Forest University School of Law.

The IBMA's Business Conference is being held in conjunction with the World of Bluegrass, an annual bluegrass music festival being held in Raleigh from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3. Last year's event brought more than 180,000 people to the city and had an estimated economic impact of \$10.8 million.