

## *U of H Law prof: It's only rock 'n' roll law but I like it*

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# TEXAS LAWYER

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## **Body**

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Is the cost of skin-tight leather pants tax-deductible for backup singers? That's the kind of question listeners of radio show "The Law of Rock 'n' Roll" can answer. On the broadcasts, University of Houston Law Center Professor Michael Olivas—who identifies himself as an avid rock 'n' roll fan bereft of any musical talent of his own—reviews legal developments in music and entertainment law.

Yes, those leather pants costs are deductible if the singers wear them only on stage while performing and not when off duty, he said.

Last year KANW, the National Public Radio station in Albuquerque, broadcast Olivas' three-and-a-half-minute weekly radio segments and will begin doing so again in August.

Other topics covered on the show: the legal fight John Lennon waged to stay in this country; the story of the exclusive ownership of the Beach Boys' name by Mike Love and not Brian Wilson; questions about who owns copyrights to remastered works that include Michael Jackson's voice; the tax implications when Tina Turner relocated to Switzerland and renounced her U.S. citizenship; and royalty issues raised when musicians' work surfaces as cellphone ringtones.

"All this is in the service to the music, which I love," the professor explained.

For rockers who don't get enough in the broadcasts, Olivas conducts Continuing Legal Education seminars for lengthier discussions of law and rock 'n' roll; one is in the planning stages for next spring in New Orleans.

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