

Christopher Wolf

MSNBC calls Christopher Wolf "a pioneer in internet law." Chris is recognized as one of the country's leading practitioners in the area of high technology law, especially with respect to the emerging law of the Internet. From coast-to-coast, Chris has litigated cutting-edge Internet issues, involving online privacy, jurisdiction over Web Site operators, domain names, and the protection of intellectual property online.

Chris also is a public policy advocate on Internet issues. In 1999, Chris was called upon by a coalition of prominent Internet businesses and consumers (including AT&T), as well as public policy groups, to become President of "Hands Off the Internet", a non-profit coalition advocating minimal government control of the Internet. As President, Chris has testified across the country, and has spoken and written, on the perils of government control of competition for broadband (high speed Internet) access. Chris has explained how unfettered competition among cable, DSL and wireless/satellite will provide the most choices for consumers at the lowest prices.

Chris co-chairs Proskauer's iPractice group, which brings together practitioners in the areas of intellectual property,

corporate law, labor law, litigation and other disciplines to focus on issues emerging from new media and new technology.

Illustrative Matters

Chris brought the first lawsuit successfully challenging copyright infringement of sound recordings on the Internet, and regularly represents content providers in copyright anti-piracy actions. In early-1998, Chris served as lead counsel for the Navy officer threatened with expulsion from the service based on private information the Navy obtained illegally from America Online. Within a two week period, the case went from filing in federal court in Washington to a permanent injunction against the proposed Navy discharge. The case made new law under the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, as well as under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" policy governing gays in the military. The matter received extensive media attention, especially concerning the Internet privacy issues.

In an early Internet-related case, Proskauer — with Chris serving as lead counsel — obtained summary judgment on behalf of The Washington Post and two of

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its reporters in a federal lawsuit brought by the Religious Technology Center alleging copyright infringement and theft of trade secrets and involving important First Amendment issues.

Chris counsels Internet-based businesses on a variety of intellectual property and Internet-specific issues. His clients include Sothebys.com, Smartbrief, EStudentloan.com, among many others.

Another technology case in which Chris serves as lead counsel is an international arbitration brought by a group of Vermont utility companies against Hydro-Quebec, seeking rescission/termination of a long-term firm power contract as a remedy for Hydro-Quebec's breaches of contract.

In a protracted and complex technology litigation, in December 1993, Chris won a major federal court jury trial in which he was lead counsel. He successfully defended a nearly \$300 million claim against Proskauer client, MCI Communications Corporation. The trial, in federal court in San Jose, California, lasted six weeks and involved claims of breach of contract and fraud arising out of a development project for a sophisticated piece of telecommunications equipment. Chris pioneered the use of a state-of-the-art computerized evidence system in the MCI trial. The verdict was unanimously upheld by the Ninth Circuit in an appeal argued by Chris in 1995.

Earlier litigation victories include a case for the Macmillan Publishing Company in a federal court libel action arising out of the book *Moscow Station*, which portrayed the so-called "sex for secrets" scandal at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, which Chris won on summary judgment.

Chris leads Proskauer's work with respect to the Year 2000 problem and counsels companies around the world on due diligence, remediation, compliance and disclosure issues related to this software problem.

Chris also practices international law and appeared before the International Court of Justice (the "World Court") when he represented the Government of El Salvador as intervenor on behalf of the United States in the well-publicized action commenced by the Government of Nicaragua.

Teaching and Speaking

In 1999, Chris was called upon by the Brookings Institution to conduct Internet law programs, and spoke frequently on Internet issues under the aegis of the Bar Association of the City of New York, Glasser LegalWorks, the National Basketball Association, and others. He is a contributor to FindLaw.com and to a BNA online publication on Internet law. Chris is a conferee of the Center for Strategic and International Studies project

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on Internet regulation.

In 1998, Chris was a faculty member at the Second International Harvard Conference on Internet and Society at Harvard University, at the Cybermedicine Symposium presented by the Friends of the National Library of Medicine, and at the Coalition of Service Industries Forum on the European Data Privacy Directive. He co-chaired the Institute on "Copyright, New Technology and New Media" in Los Angeles and he chaired the American Bar Association Litigation Section Annual meeting program entitled "A Lawyer's Guide to the Internet." He also chairs the Internet Law Committee of the Anti-Defamation League, and speaks around the country for the ADL.

Education Public Service and Community Involvement

Chris graduated from Bowdoin College in 1976 with a B.A. degree, cum laude. He studied at The London School of Economics and Political Science in 1975.

In 1980, he graduated with a J.D. degree,

magna cum laude, from Washington & Lee University School of Law (Law Review, order of the Coif, Burks Scholar) and then went on to clerk for United States District Judge Aubrey E. Robinson, Jr. in Washington, D.C. from 1980 to 1982.

He has been involved with the American Bar Association (Chair, Subcommittee on Legislation Affecting Litigation, Co-Chair, Subcommittee on Technology, Section of Litigation); the American Society of International Law; and the Committee of the International Law Association on the use of force (American Branch). His community service includes or has included board membership with the National Symphony Orchestra (Executive Committee, Chair of Development Committee); the Anti-Defamation League (Vice-Chair, Executive Committee); Food & Friends (President of the Board of Directors); the Boys and Girls Clubs of America; the Washington Chorus, AIDS Action and the Whitman Walker Clinic (Legal Services Advisory Board). Chris has received numerous awards for his community leadership. He is a member of the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC.