
Michael D. Scott

Volume 10 of the *Journal of International Media & Entertainment Law* is dedicated in memory of Southwestern Law Professor Michael D. Scott, who passed away on October 26, 2023 at age 77. Mike Scott was not only a beloved member of the Southwestern faculty; he was also a committed member of the Journal's editorial board. With his health failing, Mike decided to retire last summer. Over Zoom, a frail Mike was able to attend one last faculty meeting. I was honored to represent his colleagues with a tribute that has been revised and edited below.

Michael Scott was a colleague of few words, but great accomplishment. If you do an internet search for Michael Scott, you can find evidence of Mike's trailblazing career as a tech lawyer going back decades, even after excluding results for *The Office*. Mike was a computer lawyer before computers were in people's homes. Mike had a stellar legal career; he burnished his reputation as a partner for all things tech at Perkins-Coie, before coming to Southwestern full time in 2003. It is a measure of his longevity as a leader in his field that Mike was teaching computer law at Southwestern in 1976, when computer law was not taught at law schools.

Mike was a wonderful colleague whose prodigious work speaks for itself. As a media law professor, I remember the moment when I realized that he was the same Michael Scott who authored a popular telecom treatise. It had simply not occurred to me that his expertise overlapped so well with mine. But that was Mike; he was a savant who spoke softly but wrote boldly.

Mike's street cred as a techie drew students to him in droves. Mike didn't just have students; he had groupies. He loved "dropping knowledge" in and out of the classroom. He helped our students land jobs in the tech sector, contributed to the success of the Biederman Entertainment and Media Law Institute at Southwestern, and helped pave the way to our pathbreaking Concentration in Technology Law and Entrepreneurship.

Professor Robert C. Lind, the founder of Southwestern's entertainment law program, describes Mike Scott as "truly, the grandfather of computer law." Professor Lind recalls that Mike's input was sought after on many issues at the dawn of the digital age, including whether the internet should have an email function, when others advocated for continued reliance on the telephone. "Mike brought tremendous credibility to Southwestern's entertainment and media law curriculum," says Professor Lind. "He had the gravitas of someone highly respected in his field."

As I reflect on Mike's time at Southwestern, one moment speaks to his dedication as a colleague. He and I were both in London on July 7, 2005, when bombers attacked the city's mass transit system. Southwestern's summer entertainment program was blocks away from two of the explosions, and we knew that Mike would be on a bus enroute to his class. Within an hour, we had accounted for everyone—except Mike, who was staying outside of town. With transit and communications shut down, students and teachers grew increasingly worried for his safety. But the terrorist attack did not deter Mike; he simply walked for two hours—through emergency barricades and first responders—to reach us. That is real commitment.

Mike Scott loved this job—and the Southwestern faculty loved having him as a colleague. We will miss him keenly.

Michael M. Epstein
Supervising Editor