

STOHN HAY CAFAZZO DEMBROSKI HEIM FINLAY LLP



Stephen Stohn

Since 1979, as an entertainment and copyright lawyer Stephen has been providing strategic legal advice to performers, advertisers, merchandisers, recording artists, songwriters, multimedia creators, broadcasters, and film and television producers.

But he started his career ten years earlier, commencing with part-time appearances as a performing artist and continuing with active work as a songwriter (including two songs that reached the Canadian Top 10, *Maybe Your Heart* and *Once In A Long Time*).

Stephen is perhaps best-known to the public over decades as executive producer of the *Degrassi* television franchise, and its related webisodes, merchandising and web sites. In addition, for nearly 20 years until 2009, he was executive producer of the telecast of Canada's music awards show *The Juno Awards*, and during that period was a director and then Chair of [Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences](#), the organization responsible for *The Juno Awards*. He was also Chair of [MusiCounts](#), a charity associated with *The Juno Awards*, which among other things distributes musical instruments to schools in need. He also executive produced the teen drama television series *Instant Star*, English Canada's first prime-time soap opera *Riverdale*, as well as two feature films, *Me?* and *The Clown Murders*.



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Stephen is currently serving his second term as the chancellor of Trent University.

Industry Recognition

- Stephen has been nominated 28 times in Canada's national television awards ceremony, the [Canadian Screen Awards](#) (formerly the [Gemini Awards](#)), and has won 14 times. In 2011 he was nominated for a primetime Emmy Award and won a Peabody Award. He was subsequently nominated three more times for a primetime Emmy Awards.
- In 2005, Stephen received a commendation from the [Government of Ontario](#) reading in part: "You are no stranger to Canadian show business, having worked, and excelled, in nearly all facets of the industry. You seem to have worn every possible hat—from performing artist to accomplished entertainment lawyer—and, in doing so, have amassed an incomparable wealth of knowledge and experience. Your skills and expertise have stood you in good stead, propelling you from success to success. Whether producing the internationally acclaimed television series *Degrassi: The Next Generation* or playing a key role in the development of *Epitome Pictures*, you take on challenges in a manner appropriately echoed by the words of the legendary Samuel Goldwyn: All opportunities in the world are waiting to be grasped by people who are in love with what they are doing."
- In 2011, he was inducted into the [Canadian Music & Broadcast Industry Hall of Fame](#).
- In 2015 Trent University awarded him an honorary doctorate, Doctor of Letters (D.Litt).

Professional Activities

- Active in lobbying for reform of Canada's copyright laws

- Has co-chaired numerous entertainment law conferences under the auspices of the Law Society of Upper Canada and the Canadian Bar Association
- A partner for 10 years in Canada's largest law firm, McCarthy Tétrault
- Has appeared as an expert witness before the Copyright Board of Canada
- For nine years he was a Director and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee of Ontario Media Development Corporation (now called Ontario Creates)
- Has participated as a director, committee member or founder of a number of cultural industry associations
- Currently chair of Orange Lounge Recordings, and a director of the Canadian Retransmission Collective, the Producers Audiovisual Collective of Canada, and ISAN Canada
- Member of the Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada (SOCAN)

Education

- Called to the Ontario Bar – 1979
- University of Toronto, JD. – 1977
- Trent University, B.A. – 1969