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The Laws of Magic

New York Law School

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Law works around truth; magic works around deception. What ties the two together?

In 2012, Gerard Bakardy showcased his illusion titled, “The Rose and Her Shadow” in a YouTube video and offered to reveal his secrets to viewers for $3,050. Magicians Penn and Teller, the creators behind “Shadows,” accused Bakardy of copyright infringement and filed a lawsuit. But Bakardy argues that simple, everyday tricks that are a part of the common knowledge should not be subject to copyright protection. When do magic and law intersect? What areas of law, if any, protect magicians and their secrets?

Topics include:
- Whether copyright law, trademark law, or trade secrets legally protect magicians and their tricks
- The legal limitations to protecting magic tricks
- Perhaps a magic trick or two…..

Speakers include:
Charles E. Colman, Acting Assistant Professor of Lawyering, NYU School of Law; Founder, Charles Colman Law PLLC
Matthew Holtzclaw, Entertainment Consultant, The Artifice Group

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