



Motion Picture Licensing Corporation's Spring Film Gala

Los Angeles, CA – On March 9, Motion Picture Licensing Corporation (MPLC) held a Film Industry cocktail party, entitled "MPLC's Spring Film Gala" at the **British Consul General, Chris O'Connor's** private residence in Los Angeles. Top studio executives from the all of major and independent film and music companies who support the creative industries were in attendance.

Hosting the event, **MPLC's Vice Chair, Michael Weatherley** opened the evening with welcoming remarks. Mike originally joined MPLC in 2007 in a European Studio Relations and Finance role before becoming a British Member of Parliament (2010 – 2015). He was appointed as the first, and only, Intellectual Property Rights advisor to the Prime Minister. Mike authored four internationally acclaimed reports which transformed the UK approach to IP: – Search Engines and Piracy; Follow the Money; Copyright, Education and Awareness; and Safe Harbour Provisions. Mike secured extended funding for PIPCU, and on the Executive for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Intellectual Property. He popularized the understanding of IP to every constituency by devising Rock the House and Film the House competitions which became Parliament's largest (with 452 out of 650 MPs taking part) and utilized the power of the electorate to force all MPs to understand the value of IP.

Honored Speakers for the night included:

Acclaimed director, Jon Turteltaub who has directed several successful mainstream films for the Walt Disney Studios, including; 3 Ninjas, Cool Runnings, While You Were Sleeping, Phenomenon, The Kid, National Treasure, and National Treasure: Book of Secrets. Jon also directed Last Vegas (2012) starring Robert De Niro, Michael Douglas, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Kline; and recently wrapped production on a big budget adventure film for Warner Bros and China's Gravity Pictures entitled Meg. In television, Turteltaub produced and directed the CBS television series Jericho, and received a DGA nomination for the HBO Series From the Earth to the Moon.

President Barack Obama's Intellectual Property Tsar, Danny Marti. **Danny Marti** served as the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, colloquially referred to as the "IP Czar," at the White House from 2015 until January 2017.

Karen Thorland spoke on behalf of the MPAA alongside colleague, Jan van Voorn. In Ms. Thorland's role as Senior Vice President & Associate General Counsel, Global Content Protection Counsel at the Motion Picture Association of America, she manages domestic content protection civil litigation and oversees the Association's worldwide civil litigation efforts.

Jan van Voorn is the Senior Vice President and Deputy Chief of Content Protection for the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), which represents the interests of the American motion picture, home video and television industry both domestically and abroad.

The theme of this event was the importance of protecting and promoting creative intellectual property rights.