

Mr. Kris Ahrend



Kris Ahrend is the Chief Executive Officer of The MLC, where he leads the organization in its mission to ensure songwriters, composers, lyricists, and music publishers receive their mechanical royalties from streaming and download services in the U.S. accurately and on time. Under his direction, The MLC has already distributed hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties to its Members since officially beginning operations in 2021.

Before joining The MLC, Kris served as the President of U.S. Shared Services for Warner Music Group (WMG), where he led the development and launch of WMG's Center of Excellence for Shared Services in Nashville and oversaw the operations of fifteen different functional teams providing a variety of administrative, financial, and legal services to WMG's U.S.-based publishing teams, record labels, and corporate divisions. Prior to launching the Center of Excellence, Ahrend served as the Head of Business & Legal Affairs for WMG's catalog label, Rhino Records, in Los Angeles, and then led a large legal, financial, and administrative shared services organization within WMG that he helped to create. Kris started working in the music industry in New York City, where he held positions in the Law Department at Sony Music and then the Business and Legal Affairs Department at Sony BMG Music Entertainment.

A graduate of Binghamton University in New York and the Washington & Lee School of Law, Kris began his legal career as a law clerk in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He then spent several years in private practice, working in the New York office of the international law firm, Simpson Thacher.

Ahrend is a respected and recognized leader in the music industry. He was named to Billboard magazine's 2022 Power List, and he also received an Indie Spirit Award in 2021 from The Association of Independent Music Publishers (AIMP) in recognition of his contributions to independent music publishing community.

Kris is a proud member of the Nashville business community, where he serves on the boards of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce and the Nashville Downtown Partnership. A lifelong musician, Ahrend resides in Nashville with his wife, Karen, and two sons.

Ms. Indi CHAWLA



Indi Chawla is the Head of International Relations for The Mechanical Licensing Collective (The MLC). Based in London, Chawla is responsible for coordinating with international rightsholders to maximize the collection of mechanical royalties by The MLC on behalf of international CMOs, publishers and songwriters, influencing data quality and developing strategies for data validation and distribution, and helping

to identify and address any operational challenges facing international Members.

Widely respected among the international music publishing community, Chawla has more than twenty years of experience in the music business. She began her music industry career in 1994 as a Royalty Assistant for Polygram Music Publishing and from then on, progressed in the ranks to senior management positions for both major and independent publishers covering all aspects of rights administration.

Most recently, Chawla consulted for the world's first integrated licensing and processing hub ICE, on the company's new copyright platform, "Cube." Chawla advised on the management of conflicting work claims from creation to resolution and worked with stakeholders to align on a set of common policies and workflows.

Previously, Chawla spent nearly a decade leading Warner Chappell's Global Copyright Team. In her role as Worldwide Copyright Manager, Chawla spearheaded highly efficient and standardized registration practices across the company's network. In addition, she led her team to successfully launch an enhanced copyright registration module for the company's new rights management system and significantly contributed to several international publisher and society working groups with the aim of developing industry best practices around the management of music publishing data.

Chawla earned an M.A. in Economics from Manchester University, a B.A. (Hons) in Economics and History from University of the West of England and a Diploma in Quantitative Economic Methods from London School of Economics. She is passionate about music and travel and is a keen cyclist.