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THE Lighter Side OF THE LAW

By Mary Malloy

The law, the music, and the professor

Attorney learns to successfully combine his 'three loves'

Photos Courtesy Justin Giordano, Esq.

Justin A. Giordano, Esq., J.D. MBA, of Huntington, has learned to combine his love of music with his love of the law.

An accomplished musician with four albums and a fifth about to be released, Giordano (stage name Justin A.G.) has been involved with the music industry since he was a teenager, and has worked as a songwriter, producer, and performer. He is an active member of the Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Section of the New State Bar Association and has been a member of The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and The Country Music Association.

Giordano is a tenured professor of Business and Law at the State University of New York-Empire State College and an Associate Professor of Law (Adj.) at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice. As an attorney, he holds a Juris Doctor degree and an MBA in Finance.

His music is broad ranging, yet distinctive. It combines various musical styles including rock, classic rock, pop, and country rock.

"I've been interested in music since I was a kid," he said. "After my dad passed away [tragically in an auto accident] my mom bought me my first professional grade guitar ... a Gibson Les Paul standard, in Sunburst. That guitar became my best friend for many years."

At around 17, Giordano joined his first band, and by college, he was playing clubs in downtown Montreal, Canada, where he got his start work-

ing in recording studios. He excelled at songwriting.

But the practical side of Giordano won out, and he went onto pursue a college degree in business instead of fine arts. "Upon completing my undergraduate degree my mom told me if my heart was in it to go for it and give music as a career a full try," he said. "For three years, I tried to get that ideal recording contact as a solo artist, with my brother always by my side." It didn't pan out that way.



Attorney Justin Giordano has learned to combine his love of music and the law

Ultimately, he moved permanently to the U.S. and started his MBA in Finance. "Leaving what had been such an integral part of my life since I'd been a teenager broke my heart," he said. But Giordano was drawn back into the music field through entertainment law. He started teaching and developing music industry courses, seminars, and residencies.

"I always remind my students that

about 98 percent of the business of music goes on behind the scenes," he said.



Justin Giordano's "Hear the rock ... Feel the Roll," released in 2018, features a mix of country rock and classic rock. His music is broad ranging, and combines classic rock, pop, and country rock.

And how does he juggle his chosen profession with his first love, music? "They are interrelated," he said. "Nothing is lost. I like to use whatever knowledge I have acquired and pass it on to my students. And I've been very fortunate to teach at an academic institution that has supported my continued involvement in the music industry and the platform to develop and teach courses about various aspects of the industry. My professional and personal life are thus irrevocably intertwined, and as far as I'm concerned, I wouldn't want it any other way."

Giordano's music is on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon Music, and at his website www.justinag.com

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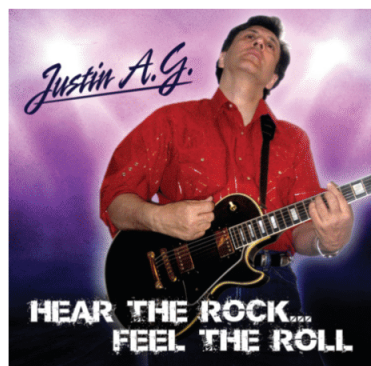


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