



## **JAMES E. ELAM, IV**

Founder, Partner

1616 Walnut Street, Suite 700, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 545-9870 (215) 754-4368 fax [james@jameselam.com](mailto:james@jameselam.com)

### **Practice Areas**

Mr. Elam's practice focuses on corporate and intellectual property issues with a client base that includes primarily entertainment and sports related clients and entities.

Entertainment clients include recording artists, professional athletes, songwriters, artist managers, record labels, production companies, publishing companies, and clothing companies.

Corporate clients include governmental institutions, corporations, limited liability companies, media companies, advertising entities, and banking institutions, among others. Real estate transactions, both commercial and residential, are also a strong practice area for Mr. Elam.

### **Professional Background**

Mr. Elam has been a lawyer since 1997. He began his professional career at the prestigious Dilworth Paxson law firm in Philadelphia. After working for a year as an associate in the litigation department, he moved into the corporate transactional group. Utilizing the strong client base that he had developed in relatively short order, he immediately began the formation of a media law group within the firm. Focusing mainly on music related clients initially, he developed a strong presence in the blossoming Philadelphia music scene. Thereafter, Mr. Elam began representing clients in the film, television, and theater industries, as well as professional athletes and authors. In representing his clients, he has negotiated numerous agreements including recording artist agreements, music publishing agreements, music production agreements, literary agreements, licensing agreements, distribution agreements, merchandising and investment agreements, while also serving as general counsel to a number of companies.

### **Professional/Civic Activities**

**Campaign Chair, Joel Johnson for Judge, 2004**

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754-4368 Fax



Fund For Philadelphia, Board of Governors, 2005  
Animal Alliance of Philadelphia, Board of Governors, 2005  
Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, Board of Governors, 2005  
Barristers Association of Philadelphia - President (2003-4)  
National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS - the Grammy organization) - Board of Governors - Philadelphia Chapter (2003-5)

- Philadelphia Bar Association
  - o Bar Media Committee, Co-Chair (2005-6)
  - o Young Lawyers Division - Chair (2001)
  - o Board of Governors 2000-1, 2003-4
  - o Philadelphia Bar Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention (2001-2, 2003-4)

Black Entertainment & Sports Lawyers Association  
Voice and Opportunity through Economics (V.O.T.E.) - Co-chair  
University of Delaware - Black Alumni Organization Association  
Regional Representative  
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. - Regional Counsel (2001)  
American Bar Association  
Advisory Board for the Friends United in Need Network (1999)  
Young America Political Action Committee  
Urban League of Young Professionals.

### Court Admissions

- United States District Courts for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

### Education

J.D., Widener University School of Law  
(1997) B.S., University of Delaware  
(1992)

### Bar Admissions

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
State of New Jersey  
Pennsylvania Super Lawyer: Rising Star Edition, 2005

### Awards

### Media Features



Philadelphia Magazine - The "IT" List - "22 People Who Will Change Your World" - 2003

Rolling Out Magazine - Business Profile - July, 2004

Philadelphia Style Magazine - Singled Out - Spring, 2001

PhillyHipHop.com - Spring, 2002

UrbanPhilly.com - Philly Shine - Summer, 2002

Philadelphia City Paper - August, 2002

Philadelphia Tribune - Philadelphia's Most Influential African Americans - January, 2003

Philadelphia Daily News - Up Close - February, 2003

KYW News Radio and Website - February, 2003

### Speaking Engagements

Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts CLE panelist:  
Making Money Making Music: Representing Clients in the  
New Music Industry - 2005

Philadelphia Bar Association 2005 Bench-Bar Conference CLE  
panelist: "Important Considerations in Developing a New



Law Practice” - 2005

Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, Multicultural Affairs Congress MAC Advantage series panelist: “How To Stay Out of Jail: The Event Planners Top 10 Legal & Risk Management Mistakes and How To Avoid Them.” - 2005

National Black MBA Association of America - Speaker - National Conference 2004

Millennium Music Conference - Speaker - 2004

Tavis Smiley National Youth Leadership Conference - Washington, DC - August, 2003

ASCAP - Building Your Camp as an Artist - November, 2002

Black Entertainment & Sports Law Association - Nuts & Bolts of Managing, Maintaining and Growing an Entertainment Legal Practice - November, 2002 Widener University School of Law - Careers in Entertainment Law - April, 2002 Dell East Music Business Institute - 2002 Villanova Sports and Entertainment Law Society - A Night of Music and the Law

- November, 2001

Philadelphia Music Conference - Urban Music 102 - June, 2001

MusicDish.com - [Crash Course in Entertainment Law - Interview with James Elam Esquire](#) - November, 2000