

GOOD WORKS

Hometown Hero

After a mass shooting in El Paso struck Khalid’s beloved 915, the singer organized a benefit concert for Sept. 1, the latest of his charitable acts

BY TATIANA CIRISANO

KHALID WAS PREPARING TO PLAY Washington, D.C.’s Capital One Arena on his first U.S. headlining arena tour when he found out that a gunman had opened fire at a Walmart in his adopted hometown of El Paso, Texas, killing 22 people and injuring 24 others. After calling his friends and family, he learned that his mother had been planning to go to that very same Walmart later in the day.

“I was devastated,” says the 21-year-old singer, who moved to the city with his family as a teenager. “I wanted to immediately give back, raise money, raise awareness and help in any way I could.”

“He was ready to jump on a plane and leave the tour,” says his manager, **Courtney Stewart**. The two made a plan: Khalid would forgo the scheduled break between legs of his Free Spirit Tour to host a benefit for the victims. The concert, dubbed A Night for Suncity, will be held at El Paso’s 12,000-capacity Don Haskins Center on Sept. 1.

The event will be jointly presented by Stewart’s homelessness-prevention charity Right Hand Foundation and Khalid’s youth-focused The Great Khalid Foundation, which he started in May with his mother, **Linda Wolfe**, serving as president/chairman.

With just days to go before the benefit, Wolfe is working to track down survivors and victims’ family members, ensuring all will be able to attend. “It’s going to allow [survivors] to have a

light in their lives for an hour and a half,” Wolfe tells *Billboard*. Meanwhile, Khalid and Stewart are building a list of soon-to-be-announced guest performers; Stewart notes that Khalid’s “Silence” collaborator **Marshmello** was among the first to reach out. “The music business is a family,” he says.

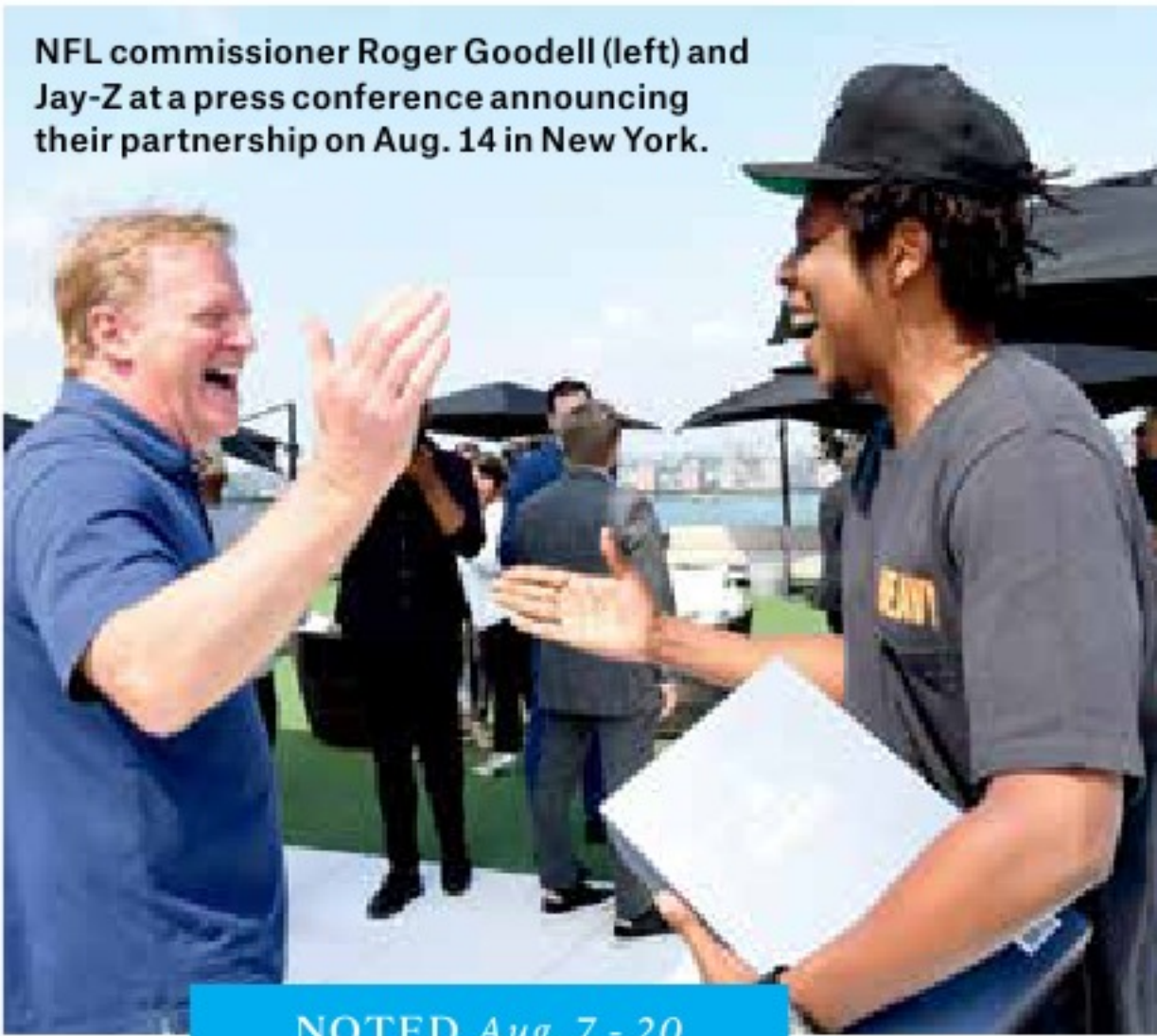
Proceeds from the event and an official T-shirt available on Khalid’s merch site will go to the El Paso Shooting Victims’ Fund and the El Paso Community Foundation.

The Great Khalid Foundation has been a dream for the artist. It grew, in part, from his tradition of donating Christmas gifts to El Paso elementary schoolchildren. Already, the organization has rolled out a slew of initiatives that Wolfe says will benefit economically disadvantaged kids in the city. In May, the foundation gave three \$10,000 scholarships to high school seniors pursuing performing arts; in August, it donated 500 backpacks filled with school supplies to middle-school students. On Sept. 13, the foundation will open its first official El Paso office, with plans to expand nationally.

Khalid knows he will lose money on the benefit, but he doesn’t mind. Having moved often as a child due to his parents’ military careers, he often calls El Paso his first true home. “The people of El Paso are really special,” he says. “I would not be where I am if my community did not give to me, and I will give back to them any chance I can get.” ●



Khalid (center), who visited the Boys & Girls Club of El Paso last September, considers the city his first true home.



NFL commissioner Roger Goodell (left) and Jay-Z at a press conference announcing their partnership on Aug. 14 in New York.

NOTED Aug. 7 - 20

New Deals

Warner Music China signed Sichuanese rapper **Vava**.

Sony/ATV Music Publishing signed the catalog of late **Stone Temple Pilots** frontman **Scott Weiland**.

Concord Music Publishing signed **Major Lazer’s Walshy Fire** to a global deal.

Florida Georgia Line launched Round Here Records with flagship artist **Canaan Smith**.

Fueled by Ramen signed rock band **A Day to Remember**.

Executive Turntable

Katie Anderson was promoted to the music leadership team at Creative Artists Agency.

Warner Records named **Jason Heller** senior vp business and legal affairs.

Sony/ATV Music Publishing upped **Jorge Mejia** to president/CEO, Latin America and U.S. Latin.

Clay Hunnicutt was

named GM of Big Machine Records.

Columbia Records named **Azim Rashid** senior vp urban promotion.

StubHub hired **Dan Jones** as vp international.

Media Alert

Jay-Z and Roc Nation teamed with the NFL on a music and social justice campaign.

Jason Mraz became the first district ambassador for The Recording Academy’s District Advocate Day on Oct. 2.

Meet & Greet

Alanis Morissette gave birth to her third child.

Obits

Easy Rider actor and screenwriter **Peter Fonda** died at 79.

The Ballad of Cable Hogue songwriter **Richard Gillis** died at 80.


Read more about their lives and impact at billboard.biz.


KHALID: ANTHONY CAMPISANO; JAY-Z: KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES

Congratulations to our

BILLBOARD 2019 TOP MUSIC LAWYER

SIMRAN A. SINGH





SINGH, SINGH & TRAUBEN, LLP

SinghTraubenLaw.com

Stephen E. Sessa

Co-chair of the entertainment and media group, Reed Smith
WHITTIER LAW SCHOOL



Sessa

Ed Shapiro

Partner, Reed Smith
BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL



Shapiro

Shapiro, 42, helped negotiate Rihanna's groundbreaking partnership with luxury goods company LVMH, including her Savage X Fenty Lingerie line and Fenty Beauty. He also counts Mariah Carey, SZA, Lord Huron, Romeo Santos and Kesha among his clients. When big music publishing song-catalog deals happen, Sessa, 51, is often involved. One example: He shopped the Stargate catalog of writer-producers Tor Erik Hermansen and Mikkel Eriksen, which Shamrock Capital bought in a deal believed to be worth \$65 million. His other corporate clients include Concord Music, Round Hill, Roc Nation and the three major music publishers, while creative clients include Meek Mill, Lil Uzi Vert, Kesha, James Fauntleroy, Linda Perry, Blackpink/YG Entertainment, Glen Ballard, Neal Schon and songwriting duo Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann.

Simran Singh

Founder/managing partner, Singh Singh & Trauben



Singh

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW
Singh, 40, who began his career as an intern at Universal Music Group (and later became an in-house counsel at UMG in Miami), now works closely with established and up-and-coming Latin urban acts, including Daddy Yankee, Anuel AA, Natti Natasha and Chris Jeday, as well as mainstream artists like Missy Elliott and Tyga. "I am most proud [of] representing the movement of Latino music culture," he says, "and negotiating unprecedented deals for my Latin clients in both the music and motion picture industries."

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

"Do not be dependent on other people to make you a star. Do it yourself, and build a strong team around you. My most successful clients did it that way."

Rachel Stilwell

Founder, Stilwell Law
LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL



Stilwell

A former radio promotion executive, Stilwell, 52, has come full circle in her work on behalf of the coalitions musicFIRST and Future of Music, fighting against further radio ownership deregulation. Shrinking playlists resulting from broadcast chain consolidation is not in the public interest, says Stilwell, whose clients also include The Latin Recording Academy, the RIAA, the American Association of Independent Music (A2IM), the American Federation of Musicians and SAG-AFTRA. "It's the [Federal Communication Commission's] responsibility to promote viewpoint diversity, including viewpoints by musicians," she says. "We're here to make sure that happens."

RECENT MEMORABLE CONCERT

"The *Grammy Salute to Music Legends*. Lalah and Kenya Hathaway knocked it out of the park in their musical tribute to their father, Donny Hathaway. Seeing Parliament-Funkadelic was amazing."

Jonathan Sperling

Partner, Covington & Burling
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL



Sperling

"We now represent every major record label and every major music publisher," says Sperling, 48, who recently marked 20 years as a trial lawyer.

On behalf of over 50 labels and publishers, Sperling in March led the copyright infringement suit against Charter Communications, an internet service provider, and defended Sony Music in a class-action suit led by Ricky Nelson's estate challenging how the label calculates royalties for its artists.

DEAL POINT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

"Who gets to monetize the data from an artist's website or a streaming service's data with respect to user preferences and activity around music that copyright holders own? Data rights are not thought about enough. The music industry overall is a bit behind on that."

Ron Sweeney

Partner, Sweeney Johnson & Sweeney

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW



Sweeney

Lil Wayne's longtime attorney, Sweeney, 65, negotiated the rapper's career-changing settlement with Cash Money Records last year, which also secured him ownership of his own music moving forward, as well as his stake in his Young Money imprint, to which Drake and Nicki Minaj are signed. "The whole lawsuit wasn't just Lil Wayne and *Tha Carter V*. It was really about the Young Money assets," says Sweeney. "The settlement is going to be written in the history books because of the magnitude of the whole thing."

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

"Learn how to count. Yes, you want to be a star, but this is a business. So you should learn how to count, and make sure you've got people around you that know how to count. That's going to make the difference."

Alex Weingarten

Partner, Venable

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

Weingarten, 45, represented Tom Petty's daughters Adria Petty and Annakim Violette in a dispute with Petty's widow, Dana York Petty, over management of the late rocker's estate. He worked with Woodstock co-founder Michael Lang in vain efforts to "keep the legendary festival alive," he says, after its financial backer, the live-event division of advertising giant Denstu Aegis, announced in April it was canceling the 50th-anniversary event.

DEAL POINT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

"A clear definition of the fiduciary relationship between the artist and 'manager' in a 360 deal. The lines have blurred between manager and label, and now labels are taking more and more money from artists for wearing different hats."

Leslie Zigel

Chairman, entertainment, media and technology group; Greenspoon Marder

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW

Zigel, 56, represented longtime client Pitbull in his investment and branding partnership with new boxing fitness chain GRIT BXING and in a voice-over deal for the animated film *UglyDolls*. He negotiated the reunion tour for Wisin & Yandel and a role in *Empire* for R&B star Mario. And Zigel found time to play more than 20 gigs with Spiral Light, his Grateful Dead tribute band.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

"Perform live as much and as often as possible, and tour whenever you can. Connecting with fans live accomplishes two things: It engages your fan base to be invested in your career, and it improves your performance chops, which are necessary for a long-term career."



Singh (right) with client Brytiago outside Capitol Records in Hollywood.



Weingarten



Zigel



Zia

Adam Zia

Partner, The Zia Firm

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Zia, 40, this year marked the fifth anniversary of his firm and last year celebrated client Starrah's ASCAP songwriter of the year honor, as the co-writer of two Hot 100 No. 1 hits, Camila Cabello's "Havana" and Maroon 5's "Girls Like You." "I've worked with Starrah since the start of her career," says Zia, who also represents French Montana, Rich the Kid and Tierra Whack. "Watching Starrah evolve into a songwriting superstar is why I got into this business."

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

"Find a team you can trust unconditionally — from your manager to [your] lawyer to [your] business manager to your friends. It's a tough business, but if you have people behind you that you trust and value their opinion, it can relieve some of the stress of the business side of it." ●

Contributors Rich Appel, Steve Baltin, Jeff Benjamin, Dean Budnick, Ed Christman, Leila Cobo, Danica Daniel, Camille Dodero, Thom Duffy, Adrienne Gaffney, Gary Graff, Andrew Hampp, Cherie Hu, Hannah Karp, Gil Kaufman, Steve Knopper, Carl Lamarre, Robert Levine, Geoff Mayfield, Matt Medved, Taylor Mims, Gail Mitchell, Melinda Newman, Paula Parisi, Chris Payne, Bryan Reesman, Craig Rosen, Claudia Rosenbaum, Dan Rys, Richard Smirke, Eric Spitznagel, Colin Stutz, Andrew Unterberger, Deborah Wilker, Nick Williams

Methodology: *Billboard's* Top Music Lawyers for 2019 were chosen by editors based on factors including, but not limited to, nominations by peers, colleagues and superiors at selected major music companies, live music promoters, digital and streaming companies, and law firms. In addition to nominations, editors weigh impact on consumer behavior as measured by such metrics as chart, sales and streaming performance from Nielsen Music; social media impressions; career trajectory; and overall impact on the music industry, using data available as of May 13. Top Music Law Schools are chosen from among those with the most alumni included on the Top Music Lawyers list.

SINGH (L): COURTESY OF SUBJECT; SESSA, SHAPIRO, REED SMITH, SINGH, CO. DE VON SPERLING, STILWELL, CURTIS MACLAHNEY, S. SPERLING, COVINGTON & BURLING, SWEENEY, BARKOW PHOTOGRAPHY, WEINGARTEN, VENABLE, ZIGEL, MICHAEL MURPHY, ZIA: COURTESY OF SUBJECT.

Congratulations, Debbie!

From all at Trinifold Management

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CONGRATULATIONS, DEBBIE
TO OUR LAWYER OF THE YEAR!

LOVE, PAULA WAGNER
AND THE PRETTY WOMAN TEAM