



Kris Ahrend
Chief Executive Officer
Mechanical Licensing Collective (The MLC)

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 more than \$1 billion 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 the 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 and on the Executive Committee of the Recording Academy's Entertainment Law Initiative. A lifelong musician, Ahrend resides in Nashville with his wife, Karen, and two sons.