Mark Rose, who has served as an expert witness in many movie-related law cases, will discuss the history and role of the expert in copyright litigation. Focusing on the classic Hollywood case of Nichols v. Universal (1930) in which the author of the hit play Abie's Irish Rose sued Universal Pictures for infringement, he will discuss how such cases often turn into battles of experts.

Professor of English Emeritus at UCSB, Rose is well-known for his historical study Authors and Owners: The Invention of Copyright and for many books on Shakespeare, science fiction, and other literary subjects.