

ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS VISIONARIES

Who Keeps the Lights On and the Cameras Rolling?

As stars rise and fall in the world of entertainment, there exists a constellation of frequently unsung heroes who serve neither in front nor behind the camera. Behind the glitz and glamour, there stands a squadron of professionals whose expertise fuels the engines that drive the industry forward.

Lawyers, accountants, lenders, business managers, wealth managers and an array of service providers form the bedrock upon which the edifice of entertainment rests. Their roles are not merely supportive; they are integral and indispensable. Their expertise can get a film or show greenlit ... and can help elevate a project to the next level of excellence.

Los Angeles Times B2B Publishing is excited to present this new business section designed to shine the spotlight on these uniquely talented visionaries in the entertainment industry who provide financing for projects and transactions as well as those who offer advisory services to entertainment industry firms and executives.

Across the following pages you'll read about those who provide essential contributions to the complex ecosystem of contracts, negotiations, finances and logistics – lawyers who wield the skills to navigate the labyrinth of Hollywood contracts, rights and intellectual property laws; accountants who serve as silent architects of financial stability in the entertainment world; and other key players. The trusted advisors alphabetically listed in this section have demonstrated exceptional skills and achievements across the full spectrum of responsibility, exemplary guidance and contributions to the Southern California entertainment business community at large.



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David Acosta

Managing Director, Head of Entertainment Banking
East West Bank

David Acosta serves as managing director and head of entertainment banking at East West Bank, which

focuses on clients in the film, television, music and sports industries. With nearly two decades of experience in the entertainment and media financing business, he leads a team responsible for sourcing and structuring financings for various entertainment sectors, including single- and multiple-picture film financing, television productions, sports teams, music companies and other media businesses. Previously, Acosta held a 13-year tenure as team leader in the entertainment division at City National Bank and served as senior vice president and head of entertainment, sports and syndicated finance group at Israel Discount Bank of New York. He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Columbia University.

Belva Anakwenze, principal of Abacus Financial Management Group, is an entertainment business manager in Los Angeles, representing a diverse clientele including entertainers, tech companies and musicians. With over 15 years in the industry, she's a trusted advisor. Anakwenze recently launched "The Earn Up," a financial show on Patreon's Creator Hub YouTube channel, aiming to empower creators in managing their businesses. Her commitment to financial literacy extends to her work with Junior Achievement Southern California and UCLA's Black Business Student Association. In 2021, she was the featured speaker for a very successful webinar for the UC Alumni community on personal financial management. Anakwenze continues to share her expertise through speaking engagements and educational initiatives, including webinars and mentoring programs.

Belva Anakwenze

Entertainment Business Manager
Abacus Financial Business Management



Tom Ara

Partner, Global Co-Chair, Media, Sport and Entertainment
DLA Piper

Tom Ara, a global co-chair at DLA Piper's media, sport and entertainment sector, specializes in domestic and international entertain-



ment transactions. His clientele includes banks, private equity groups and major entertainment companies. Ara advises on corporate transactions, film production, digital content and emerging technologies such as augmented reality. Notable deals include representing TikTok in its groundbreaking "TikTok in the Mix" event and Annapurna Games in acquiring 24 Bit. He is also involved in key distribution agreements for LEGO Group and Coupang Play's partnership with Major League Baseball. Ara's expertise extends to VR content production, as seen in deals with ByteDance and NTHIBAH Pictures. His accolades include features in Variety's Dealmakers Impact Report and Forbes America's Top 200 Lawyers.



Michael Karlin
Founding Partner
NKSFB, LLC



David Weise
Founding Partner
David Weise & Associates



Harley Neuman
Founding Partner
Neuman + Associates



NKSFB congratulates

**Michael Karlin, David Weise
and Harley Neuman**

for being recognized as

**2024 Business of
Entertainment Visionaries**

Tiffany Boyle

President of Packaging & Sales, Producer
Ramo Law PC

For over a decade, Tiffany Boyle has excelled in sales and packaging, bringing numerous films and documentaries to fruition. Leveraging her business acumen and Ramo Law resources, she adeptly connects filmmakers with industry stakeholders. As a partner at Vested Interest, founded with Elsa Ramo, she discovers, develops and produces unique filmmaking voices and stories. Notable projects include financing and sales for "The Card Counter" and "Joyland" and executive producing acclaimed films like "Die in a Gunfight." Boyle actively supports emerging talent through workshops and panels, recently mentoring Marta Reeder and teaching courses for Sundance Collab. She moderated a discussion with a group of female financiers for the 2022 SXSW PanelPicker, "Girls Just Want to Have Funds: Women in Finance."

Jordan Bromley, a leading figure in entertainment law, is known for his extensive contributions to the industry. As the head of Manatt Entertainment, he oversees a practice renowned for facilitating over \$3 billion in major music transactions annually. Notably, he advised Francisco Partners Management on its majority stake investment in Kobalt Music, a pivotal move shaping the future of creator services and digital licensing platforms. Bromley's advocacy extends beyond legal realms; he supports artists' rights through initiatives like the Music Artists Coalition and has played integral roles in legislative actions such as the Music Modernization Act. His recent efforts include securing benefits for entertainment workers under the CARES Act during the pandemic and organizing coalitions for police reform.



Jordan Bromley

Leader of Manatt Entertainment
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Cheryl A. Calhoun

Managing Director | *CBIZ MHM, LLC*



Cheryl A. Calhoun, managing director of CBIZ MHM, LLC, is a highly experienced public accountant with over 40 years of expertise. After earning her MBA in accounting and information systems from UCLA, she embarked on a career that began in auditing before transitioning to tax services. She specializes in representing high-net-worth individuals, particularly in the film, TV and digital content businesses. Calhoun's former firm, Parks, Palmer, Turner & Yemenidjian was acquired by CBIZ in 1998. Since then, she has since expanded her focus, co-leading the CBIZ Los Angeles family office group and playing a pivotal role in standardizing national best practices for family office services, offering comprehensive assistance in tax structuring, deal management and financial planning.

Mary Craig Calkins

Partner, Insurance Recovery | *Blank Rome LLP*



Mary Craig Calkins has over 35 years of experience in insurance recovery law, recovering hundreds of millions for entertainment clients. She serves as lead coverage counsel for high-profile networks, production companies and other entertainment brands, handling complex disputes involving D&O liability, media, natural disasters, IP, cybersecurity and more. Notably, she advises a major TV network on claims related to election fraud and defamation and an NFL team on insurance issues. Calkins also handles insurance for productions affected by catastrophes and pandemics. She is a past president of the American College of Coverage Counsel and holds leadership roles in the ABA. Recognized by Chambers USA since 2006, Calkins has received numerous awards, including "Top 10 Most Influential Insurance Policyholder Lawyer in California" by Business Today.

Leif Cervantes de Reinstein

Partner | *Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP*



Leif Cervantes de Reinstein, a seasoned entertainment lawyer based in Los Angeles, has a diverse background, having worked as a talent lawyer, M&A attorney and head of legal at Fremantle. At Sheppard Mullin, he specializes in high-stakes negotiations and operational advice, particularly within the entertainment industry. Cervantes de Reinstein's recent achievements include facilitating major deals for renowned clients like 101 Studios and Lionsgate, totaling millions in value. He also supports social causes, offering pro bono services to organizations supporting human rights, equality and animal welfare. He is an active member of Sheppard Mullin's LGBTQ group, promoting diversity and inclusion within the firm. Recognized by Variety, The Legal 500 U.S. and The Hollywood Reporter, Cervantes de Reinstein is esteemed as a top entertainment attorney.

Studios and Lionsgate, totaling millions in value. He also supports social causes, offering pro bono services to organizations supporting human rights, equality and animal welfare. He is an active member of Sheppard Mullin's LGBTQ group, promoting diversity and inclusion within the firm. Recognized by Variety, The Legal 500 U.S. and The Hollywood Reporter, Cervantes de Reinstein is esteemed as a top entertainment attorney.

Chris Chatham

Partner | *Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP*



Chris Chatham is a leading Hollywood dealmaker and lawyer for celebrity-backed consumer brands, representing stars such as Logan Paul, Gabriel Macht, Demi Moore and others in complex corporate deals and litigation. Frequently recognized as one of the entertainment industry's top lawyers, he has facilitated deals worth an estimated \$10 billion, with clients generating over 1,000 hours of TV annually and achieving significant milestones, such as "Suits" breaking streaming records. Recent highlights include launching Dr. Phil's Merit Street Media, Logan Paul's fight deal, securing renewals and major deals for CBS and Roku and partnerships for brands like L'Oréal Paris and Bear Fight Whiskey.

Shaun Clark

Partner
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP



Shaun Clark is a leading lawyer specializing in entertainment, branding and technology. He drafts and negotiates agreements for TV and film, including high-profile co-production deals. He has launched globally recognized celebrity brands. Clark advises top clients in virtual reality, podcasting and AI, and negotiates significant content production, endorsement, sponsorship and licensing deals, including stadium naming rights and jersey sponsorships. His recent noteworthy deals include representing Lionsgate in acquiring eOne, Sony Pictures Television in combining Pure Flix with Great American Media and HCL Technologies in a major sponsorship deal with MetLife Stadium. Clark's achievements include being named a Top Entertainment Attorney by Variety and a Thought Leader by Who's Who Legal.

Kelly Coffey is the CEO of City National Entertainment and a member of its executive leadership and senior management teams. She leverages City National and RBC's expertise to provide strategic advice and premier client experiences across the entertainment sector, including film, TV, music, theater and sports. Previously, she served as CEO of City National Bank and held various leadership roles at J.P. Morgan, including CEO of its U.S. private bank. Coffey has been recognized as one of American Banker's 25 Most Powerful Women in Banking and is on the publication's list of Most Powerful Women in Finance. She joined City National in 2019 after a distinguished career at J.P. Morgan, where she also chaired the reputation risk committee and led the women's network.

Kelly Coffey

CEO, Entertainment Banking
City National Bank Entertainment



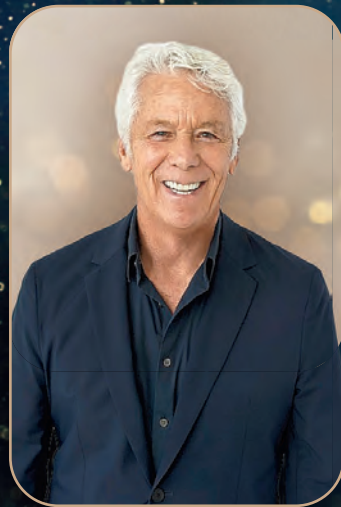
RUSS
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& KABAT

Russ August & Kabat LLP
proudly congratulates its Partners

STANTON "LARRY" STEIN
& ASHLEY R. YEARGAN

on being named

"Business of Entertainment Visionaries"
by L.A. Times B2B Publishing in the Envelope Magazine



Russ August & Kabat is a preeminent midsize law firm in Los Angeles comprised of lawyers who attended the country's most prestigious schools. The Firm represents local, national and international clients on challenging and cutting-edge legal matters. Led by Stein and Yeargan, the Firm's Entertainment and Media practice focuses on protecting the rights of some of the industry's most successful actors, musicians, producers, and content creators in disputes such as breach of contract, idea theft, defamation, violations of rights of privacy and publicity, copyright infringement, and trademark infringement. Their group has been recognized numerous times for its creative and innovative approach to achieving client goals, often pushing the law forward to address novel problems and the impact of new technologies.

www.raklaw.com

Sandra Crawshaw-Sparks

Partner, Chair,
Entertainment,
Copyright & Media
Practice Group
Proskauer Rose LLP

Sandra Crawshaw-Sparks is a well-known entertainment litigator with over 35 years of experience. As the chair of Proskauer's entertainment, copyright and media practice, she handles high-profile cases involving recording, publishing, licensing and management contracts as well as copyright and trademark infringement claims. Crawshaw-Sparks adeptly manages sensitive pre-litigation and pre-trial resolutions, protecting her clients' reputations and interests. She also serves as national legal counsel for the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences. Her recent cases include defending Live Nation and Madonna in a class action lawsuit and prosecuting copyright infringement claims for Sony Music Entertainment. Crawshaw-Sparks' achievements have earned her accolades from Billboard and Best Lawyers.

Robert Darwell, head of global media and senior partner at Sheppard Mullin's Century City office, has a distinguished career marked by numerous accolades such as The Hollywood Reporter's Power Lawyer and Billboard's Top Music Lawyers. His global practice spans major motion picture studios, television networks and new media companies, offering comprehensive legal counsel on development, production and distribution matters. Notable highlights include representing Amazon Studios in acquiring MGM, Disney in the separation from Miramax and overseeing the development of iconic films like "Traffic" and "Brokeback Mountain." Beyond his legal prowess, Darwell is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, with his debut film "The 90s Club" winning Best Documentary at multiple festivals. A Georgetown law graduate, he blends his passion for entertainment with international trade expertise.



Robert A. Darwell

Partner, Head of
Global Media
*Sheppard,
Mullin, Richter &
Hampton LLP*

Guillaume de Chalendar

EVP, Head of Media & Entertainment Banking | *Banc of California*



Guillaume de Chalendar, executive vice president at Banc of California, leads media and entertainment banking from Los Angeles, overseeing strategy and growth for entrepreneurs, businesses and talent in film, television, music and live events. Since joining in January 2022, Banc of California's entertainment business has more than doubled under his leadership. They've evolved from financing indie films to providing comprehensive cash management services and funding solutions, expanding services internationally to Canada, Australia and the U.K. With lines of credit up to U.S. \$200 million and loans in over 30 foreign currencies, Banc of California simplifies lending for clients. De Chalendar's team, with decades of industry experience, offers tailored banking solutions across verticals, recognizing the unique needs of each client.

Olivier de Givenchy

Managing Director, West Region Head | *J.P. Morgan Private Bank*



Olivier de Givenchy, West Region head at J.P. Morgan Private Bank, leads over 630 professionals across 15 offices spanning 10 states. With a career spanning nearly four decades, de Givenchy has held various leadership roles within J.P. Morgan, including CEO of J.P. Morgan Private Bank in the U.K. Based in Los Angeles, he oversees a significant client asset base, particularly in California, where assets under management total nearly \$170 billion. Under his guidance, the California market has seen a 140% increase in headcount over five years, supporting the bank's growth strategy. Beyond banking, de Givenchy serves as vice president for Children in Crisis and ambassador of The Blue Marine Foundation. He also serves on the board of trustees for the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures.

Scott Edel

Chair of the Entertainment Group | *Loeb & Loeb LLP*



Scott Edel, chair of Loeb & Loeb's entertainment practice in Los Angeles, is a trusted advisor to leading entertainment and media players. With decades of industry experience, he specializes in guiding startups, facilitating growth for existing businesses and advising market leaders on expansion strategies. Edel's expertise spans complex transactions in film, television, digital platforms and music, earning him a reputation as a top entertainment lawyer. Recent representations include Alcon Entertainment projects, Nexon Studios' \$400-million investment in AGBO and Black Label Media's slate of motion pictures. He also negotiated deals for Nintendo, Games Workshop and Voxovation. Additionally, Edel represents Artists Equity, Morgan Creek Productions and ongoing clients such as Supercell and Studio 8.

David Eisman

Partner | *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*

David Eisman, head of Skadden's media and entertainment group and Los Angeles corporate group, is a prominent figure in the industry, known for his role in groundbreaking deals. Representing a diverse clientele including major studios, labels, agencies and celebrities, his innovative solutions and strategic counsel have earned him recognition as a top advisor. Notable recent representations include Drake's OVO Sound, DJ Khaled's We the Best label and various music-focused deals. Eisman also handles significant transactions in film, television and agency sectors, such as AGBO's partnership with Nexon and UTA's acquisition of REP 1 Baseball. Beyond his legal practice, he is committed to pro bono work and mentoring his team. Eisman is recognized by prestigious legal directories including Chambers USA and The Legal 500 U.S.



Miles J. Feldman

Founding Partner
*Raines Feldman
Littrell LLP*



Miles Feldman, a founding partner of Raines Feldman Littrell LLP, leads its trials, litigation and dispute resolution department with over 15 litigators. With offices in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and Costa Mesa, Raines Feldman Littrell LLP is a premier business law firm. Feldman has nearly three decades of experience handling high-profile cases in technology, media and finance. He represents clients such as Belkin International, United Talent Agency and TikTok, achieving results in cutting-edge litigation. Feldman also contributes to charitable causes, mentors through Communities in Schools Los Angeles and participates in the Law Rocks event, raising money for charities such as People Assisting The Homeless (PATH).

Sasha Frid, a founding partner of Miller Barondess, LLP, leads the entertainment practice at the Los Angeles-based litigation firm. Known for his prowess in high-profile trials and arbitrations nationwide, he represents entertainers, artists, labels and music managers. Frid has been consistently recognized on Billboard's Top Music Lawyers list and Variety's Top Entertainment Lawyers. Notable victories include defending Motown legend Smokey Robinson against a \$2+ million claim and securing a swift defense verdict for Virtual Sonics. With over 15 years representing Mötley Crüe and diverse clients like Warner Records and Live Nation, Frid's success extends across the music industry. He is also active in charitable endeavors, supporting cancer research and educational initiatives and contributes to legal and academic fields through his publications and pro bono work.

Alexander (Sasha) Frid

Partner
*Miller
Barondess, LLP*





CONGRATULATIONS, WAYNE!

Citrin Cooperman congratulates Partner and Music Business Management Practice Leader Wayne Kamemoto for being recognized as a "2024 Business of Entertainment Visionary" by *L.A. Times B2B Publishing*.

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21650 OXNARD STREET, FLOOR 12, WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367

Patricia Glaser

Partner & Chair
of the Litigation
Department
Glaser Weil

Patricia Glaser leads Glaser Weil's litigation department, recognized nationally as a top trial attorney sought for high-stakes litigation. With a focus on business trial law, she advises Fortune 500 companies, major studios, real estate investors and high-profile entertainers. Glaser is acclaimed for her role in landmark entertainment cases, earning her consistent top rankings in California for commercial and media litigation. Prominent representations include MGM, Bill Nye "The Science Guy," Miley Cyrus and Jeff Zucker. Recent highlights involve litigation with The Weinstein Company, Lucasfilm and The Walt Disney Company. Her leadership has shaped Glaser Weil's litigation department into a 40-attorney force. Glaser contributes to prominent arts organizations, serves on multiple boards and supports civil rights causes, showcasing her commitment to law and society.

Ilan Haimoff, CPA, CIA, CFE, CFF, is the entertainment practice leader at GHJ, with over 30 years of accounting expertise. He specializes in profit participation and forensic accounting, ensuring fairness and accuracy for stakeholders in major and mini studios. Haimoff's leadership has expanded GHJ's entertainment practice, offering comprehensive solutions including tax planning and compliance. He hosts GHJ's Media Clips Podcast, engaging with industry leaders like Motion Picture and Television Fund (MPTF) president Bob Beitcher and producer Neil Moritz. As a thought leader, he co-chairs conferences and contributes to industry publications. Haimoff mentors team members and advocates for flexible work practices. He actively supports industry initiatives like the MPTF. His contributions have advanced GHJ's success and integrity in the entertainment industry.



Ilan Haimoff
Partner
GHJ

Ron Hess

Vice President | *Momentous Insurance Brokerage, a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC Company*

Ron Hess transitioned from film and television production to the insurance industry, driven by a desire to enhance insurance services for entertainment. With firsthand experience, he identified opportunities to streamline risk assessment, crucial for fast-paced productions and tours. Hess joined a leading brokerage, introducing tailored risk management solutions for short-term and low-budget productions, previously accessible only to major studios. His innovative approach gained traction, attracting prominent studios, festivals and touring musicians. While maintaining a focus on entertainment insurance, Hess' expertise expanded to diverse sectors, including high-net-worth clientele, experiential marketing, special effects and firearms industries. He has demonstrated a versatile and creative approach across unconventional business disciplines.

Kevin D. Holmes

Partner, CPA | *Withum*

Kevin D. Holmes, a seasoned business advisory and audit partner, brings three decades of expertise serving high-profile talent, business management firms and entities in entertainment and various industries. He specializes in risk and fraud-based internal control assessments, aiding A-list entertainers and business management firms in fraud prevention and detection. Holmes played pivotal roles in two successful accounting industry mergers and conducted internal training seminars on internal controls. His leadership extends to building and mentoring strong teams. Certified by the AICPA, he holds expertise in COSO Internal Control and Cybersecurity Advisory Services. Holmes' community engagement includes board positions in organizations like the College of the Canyons Foundation and the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce, showcasing his commitment to philanthropy and local community development.



Matt Hallinan

Partner | *Cooley LLP*

Matt Hallinan, a partner at Cooley, is a trusted adviser in venture capital, mergers and strategic legal matters for clients across diverse industries, including entertainment and technology. He guided Justin Bieber in a record-breaking \$200-million deal with Hipgnosis Songs Capital, among other high-profile transactions for celebrities and companies. Hallinan's recent successes include advising on strategic partnerships for the Kardashian-Jenner family and leading Cooley teams in significant mergers and acquisitions, such as Amass Brands' acquisition of Winc. His leadership fosters impactful outcomes, evident in Tasso's \$100-million Series B financing and Sunbasket's merger with Pruvit. He has led multiple pro bono initiatives at Cooley, including an adoption clinic and representation of companies led by people from historically underserved groups.

Taylor Hathaway-Zepeda

Partner | *Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*

Taylor Hathaway-Zepeda is a partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Los Angeles, specializing in mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures and corporate governance across diverse industries, with a focus on media, entertainment and technology sectors. Recent highlights include representing The North Road Company in its formation and various high-profile investments, advising Universal Pictures on partnerships and investments such as the merger of Blumhouse Productions and Atomic Monster and assisting The Chernin Group in platform-enhancing investments and acquisitions. Additionally, Hathaway-Zepeda played a pivotal role in Block Inc.'s acquisition of Tidal, Jay-Z's streaming platform. Her extensive expertise spans from celebrity partnerships to major acquisitions. She holds a law degree from Harvard Law School and has served in leadership roles in various prestigious organizations.



Carolyn Hunt

Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP



Carolyn Hunt offers extensive legal and business counsel in entertainment

financing, having facilitated funding for numerous award-winning film, television and gaming projects. Her expertise spans single-project financing, capital raises, slate transactions and incentivized financing structures, benefiting clients like Lionsgate Entertainment, IMAX and Natixis. Hunt's recent successes include securing financing for Gala Media Capital amidst the 2023 actors' strike, funding family-oriented genre films and facilitating production loans for projects. Her track record also includes orchestrating entertainment corporate facilities for Lionsgate Entertainment and FilmNation Entertainment, showcasing her proficiency in navigating complex financing landscapes within the entertainment industry.

Robert L. Kahan has over 50 years of corporate transactional law practice in Los Angeles, specializing in mergers and acquisitions, franchising and licensing. He focuses primarily on representing A-list entertainment and lifestyle executives, celebrities and influencers in various business transactions, enhancing their companies' growth. Operating discreetly, Kahan supplements entertainment lawyers and wealth managers, providing seamless full-service legal support. His achievements include facilitating the formation of AME, representing Suzanne Somers Companies in multiple ventures. His recent successes involve assisting Academy Award winners in sports franchise ownership and theater property acquisition, among others. Kahan's leadership extends to mentoring young attorneys at Blank Rome and contributing to various legal and community organizations.

Robert L. Kahan

Partner,
Corporate Law
Blank Rome LLP



Wayne Kamemoto

Partner–Practice Leader, Music
Citrin Cooperman

A seasoned professional with over 25 years of experience in music and entertainment business management, Wayne Kamemoto has led Citrin Cooperman’s music practice nationally since 2023. A CPA and CGMA, he specializes in accounting and consulting services for artists, tours and music festivals. Previously with top entertainment firms, Kamemoto joined Citrin Cooperman for its historic music ties. He oversees a team of partners and directors across the country, setting protocols, managing staffing and serving a diverse clientele from emerging artists to Rock and Roll Hall of Famers. Kamemoto is known for his integrity and artist-friendly approach. Beyond his professional achievements, he coaches youth basketball and mentors aspiring entertainment professionals, while also contributing to philanthropic causes like pediatric cancer research and MusiCares.

Michael Karlin, a founding partner of NKSFB, oversees the financial affairs of clients, including business executives, real estate developers and entertainment industry professionals. He facilitated the sale of clients’ music publishing catalogs and played a key role in closing a client’s podcast business. A member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the California Society of Certified Public Accountants (CalCPA), he holds a Bachelor of Science in accounting and a Master of Taxation from the University of Southern California. Karlin sits on the boards of the Motion Picture and Television Fund, the Westcoast Sports Associates and the Matthew Silverman Memorial Foundation and serves on the board of advisors for USC’s Leventhal School of Accounting.



Michael David Karlin

Founding Partner
NKSFB, LLC

Peter Laurence Kaufman

Partner | *Kaufman Abdel-Aal LLP*



Peter Kaufman, a partner at Kaufman Abdel-Aal LLP, specializes in entertainment and media law, focusing on finance, production and distribution. He serves on arbitration panels for the Independent Film and Television Alliance (IFTA) and American Arbitration Association (AAA) and is active in industry organizations, like the Producers Guild of America and the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. His leadership extends to community engagements and media commentary, notably on topics like crowdfunding and talent negotiations. Past roles include general counsel for ComedyWorld.com and VP roles at Film Roman and LIVE Entertainment Inc. Kaufman holds a B.A. from Emory University and a J.D. from Boston University School of Law. Recently, he played a pivotal role in financing the film “Manodrome” during industry challenges like the pandemic and labor strikes.

Philip M. Kelly

Named Partner | *Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP*



Phil Kelly is a prominent Hollywood litigator, renowned for victories involving major industry players like Paramount Global and NBCUniversal. He is recognized by Chambers & Partners USA as one of California’s leading media and entertainment litigators. In complex multi-million-dollar litigations, he excels in copyright infringement, film finance and intellectual property disputes. Kelly’s successes include securing a \$16-million award for Paramount Licensing and defeating a \$15-million claim. He’s represented CBS Broadcasting and Lionsgate, securing favorable outcomes. Currently, he’s involved in high-profile cases with Paramount Global and Lionsgate. Beyond litigation, Kelly offers strategic pre-litigation counsel. As a board member of Inner City Law Center, he contributes pro bono work and his expertise extends to speaking engagements, including at the Practising Law Institute’s “Technotainment” seminar.

Congratulations to our Co-Chair **Arash Khalili** and partner **Scott Edel** for being recognized as 2024 Business of Entertainment Visionaries by *L.A. Times B2B Publishing* in *The Envelope* magazine.

We applaud your remarkable professional achievements and innovative approach within the entertainment industry and beyond.



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Arash Khalili

Co-Chair;
Corporate & Capital
Markets Co-Chair
Loeb & Loeb LLP

Arash Khalili, recently appointed co-chair at Loeb & Loeb, is a leading dealmaker known for navigating complex corporate transactions across diverse industries such as media, technology, fashion, entertainment and sports. As co-chair of the capital markets and corporate department, he advises renowned companies and individuals, structuring intricate deals both nationally and internationally. Noteworthy transactions include Vin Di Bona Productions' majority stake sale, Philpott Meeks' acquisition by NFP and Lionel Richie's brand ambassador partnership with Acrisure. Khalili's expertise extends to advising prominent figures in the sports and entertainment world. Active in the legal community, he contributes to the Los Angeles County Bar Association and other professional organizations, while speaking on key legal issues in media and entertainment.

Peter Klass, CFE, leads GHJ's profit participation services practice, renowned for its expertise in profit participation audits within the entertainment sector. Promoted to partner in 2022, his exclusive dedication to the industry highlights his leadership. Co-authoring the third edition of "Movie Money: Understanding Hollywood's (Creative) Accounting Practices," he demystifies the complex financial landscape. With eight years at Sony before GHJ, Klass brings extensive industry experience. His strategic foresight in adapting business models to digital distribution channels ensures client preparedness. Beyond his professional endeavors, he is deeply committed to community service, supporting organizations like the Boys and Girls Club and L.A. Regional Food Bank. Through educational initiatives and mentorship, Klass prepares the next generation of financial professionals for industry challenges.



Peter Klass

Partner
GHJ

David P. Lefebvre

Special Counsel | *Covington & Burling LLP*



David P. Lefebvre advises prominent media and entertainment entities, tech firms and content owners on content licensing and distribution agreements, covering various platforms and business models. His expertise spans drafting commercial agreements for television and video program licensing, cable network affiliation, sports telecast rights and new media distribution. Notable clients include Disney, AMC Networks and Paramount.

Additionally, Lefebvre facilitated multi-year renewal agreements for AMC Networks with Charter and Bell Canada, optimizing distribution strategies. Beyond his professional commitments, he provides pro bono legal assistance, including adoption proceedings and immigration petitions.

Stacy Marcus

Partner, Media, Sport and Entertainment Sector | *DLA Piper*



Stacy Marcus, the first woman to serve as chief negotiator for the advertising industry's Joint Policy Committee (JPC), has led negotiations with SAG-AFTRA for over 15 years, overseeing the \$3+ billion commercial contracts. She is also a trustee for the SAG-AFTRA Health Plan and SAG-Producers Pension Plan and co-trustee for the Industry Advancement Cooperative Fund. In 2023, Marcus orchestrated the transition to a historic new Commercials Contract structure and negotiated COVID-19 safety protocols. Previously at Reed Smith, she headed the advertising subsector group, advising on advertising and entertainment law. Notable achievements include negotiating major brand and sports partnerships, celebrity endorsement deals and advising on viral campaigns. Marcus' contributions have earned her accolades such as Ad Age's 40 Under 40 list and inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America®.

Glen Mastroberte

Partner | *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*



Glen Mastroberte is a seasoned entertainment lawyer with a diverse practice spanning studios, production companies, music labels and gaming companies. He handles legal and business aspects of media and entertainment industries, including financing, production, licensing and distribution. Mastroberte recently has facilitated headline-grabbing transactions such as Reliance Industries Limited's \$8.5-billion joint venture,

AGBO's transformative fundraising and Embracer Group AB's acquisition of Middle-earth Enterprises. He also represented OVO Sound and DJ Khaled Productions in music transactions and Sybo Games ApS and Rovio Entertainment in gaming licensing deals. Moreover, Mastroberte led significant deals in the sports agency industry, including Athletes First's acquisition by MASTRY Ventures and General Catalyst. He actively engages in pro bono initiatives and mentors aspiring legal professionals.

Justin McCurdy

Managing Director &
Financial Advisor
Manhattan West



Justin McCurdy, recently promoted to managing director at Manhattan West

embodies the firm's values of excellence, innovation, inclusion and integrity. His entertainment and sports practice has prominent clients including musicians, producers and figures from the NBA, NFL and boxing, such as one Hall of Fame boxer renowned for his undefeated record and world championships. McCurdy prioritizes client education, transparency and leveraging Manhattan West's resources for tailored wealth management solutions. A Certified Financial Planner, he assists clients in retirement, tax, estate planning, budgeting and investment management. With a background at Morgan Stanley and founding ProSkills Basketball, McCurdy is committed to diversity in finance, mentoring aspiring advisors of color and advocating for inclusion in the industry.

Devin McRae is an experienced business litigator specializing in entertainment, intellectual property and partnership disputes. He represents a diverse clientele including artists, production companies and talent agencies. McRae represents clients in sensitive cases involving abuse and domestic violence within the entertainment industry. His recent cases include representing authors, actors and industry professionals in high-profile conflicts, such as the lawsuit against Verve executives and disputes over film rights and copyright. McRae's accolades include recognition in Southern California Super Lawyers and The Best Lawyers in America®. He's known for securing significant verdicts, including a multi-million dollar win for actress Shannen Doherty. With a background at prestigious firms and a law degree from UCLA, McRae brings extensive trial experience to his practice at Early Sullivan.

Jordan Matthews

Partner | *Weinberg Gonser LLP*

Jordan Matthews, an accomplished business trial lawyer and litigator, specializes in the entertainment industry and business sector. Notably, he was lead counsel against casino mogul, Steve Wynn, arising out of sexual misconduct allegations leading to his resignation as chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts, \$65 million in total fines and his removal as an officer and executive in the gaming industry. Matthews represents various investors and producers in disputes over A-list motion pictures, and he recently secured a judgment for a client, where the court awarded punitive damages equal to 100% of the compensatory damages award. He has a background in film finance and production, having successfully raised capital for feature films, orchestrating several slate financing deals valued at approximately \$600 million.



Devin McRae

Partner
*Early Sullivan
Wright Gizer
& McRae LLP*



Michael Meschures

Partner
MGO

A second-generation business manager and director at MGO, Michael Meschures has

over a decade of experience in business management and works with clients in entertainment, sports and media as well as high-net-worth families and executives. As a business management leader, his team excels at steering clients toward wealth preservation, adeptly addressing daily challenges, both minor and major, and making informed financial decisions. Meschures has been an integral component in developing critical relationships and growing the entertainment, sports and media practice at MGO. Outside of work, he actively contributes to his community by serving as a board member for America Needs You, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting economic mobility for low-income, first-generation college students through mentorship and career development programs.

Alissa Miller, a distinguished finance lawyer specializing in entertainment, serves as a partner at Akin Gump. In her role, she manages high-profile deals between independent film production companies and financial institutions. Named partner in charge of Akin's Los Angeles office in 2022, she advocates for the entertainment sector amidst significant disruptions. Miller is renowned for her work with major financial institutions, overseeing deals for prominent projects such as those with A24, Netflix and ABC Television. She assisted independent production companies affected by pandemic-related shutdowns, leading to the establishment of the American Coalition for Independent Content Production. Miller's recent achievements include representing lenders in multi-million-dollar credit facilities and contributing as a thought leader in media and entertainment discussions.



Alissa Miller

Partner
Akin



Darrell D. Miller

Founding Chair of the Entertainment & Sports Law Department
Fox Rothschild LLP

Darrell Miller, founding chair of Fox Rothschild's entertainment & sports department and managing partner of its Los Angeles office, is a highly regarded entertainment attorney. With over 30 years of experience, he represents esteemed Hollywood talents like Angela Bassett, Da'Vine Joy Randolph and Taylor Tomlinson. He is known for his leadership in industry organizations like the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and the Black Entertainment & Sports Lawyers Association, earning him a place in their hall of fame. Over the past 24 months, he has secured significant deals for clients, including Randolph's Oscar-winning role and Tomlinson's late-night show on CBS. Miller's expertise extends to diverse creators and executives, contributing to their sustainable careers in an evolving industry landscape.

Harley J. Neuman

Partner & Founder | Neuman + Associates

Harley Neuman has over 30 years of experience in business management, representing top names in the entertainment industry. He graduated magna cum laude from San Diego State University with a B.S. in business administration, majoring in accounting. Neuman began his career at Deloitte Haskins & Sells, where he led the entertainment industry practice. In 1991, he founded Neuman + Associates, a business management firm that merged with NKSFB in 2019. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the California Society of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) as well as the California Society of CPAs, where he chaired the annual Entertainment Industry Conference in Los Angeles. Neuman serves on the board of directors of the Ellen DeGeneres Wildlife Fund and participates in several other nonprofits.



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For more than 40 years CBIZ has served as a trusted advisor to Los Angeles' independent film and TV producers, directors, writers, film distributors, production and postproduction services, and more. We provide a wide range of tailored financial services, that include tax structuring and planning, family office services, and business management.

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Cheryl Calhoun
Managing Director



Jim Parks
Managing Director

CBIZ.COM/LOSANGELES

Quincy Newell

Founder &
Managing Attorney
Newell Law Firm PC

Quincy Newell has over 30 years of experience in the entertainment and media industry. He has held senior executive roles at companies like Warner Music Group's Rhino Entertainment, Codeblack Films/Lionsgate and Hidden Empire Film Group. He has negotiated numerous transactions for celebrities and production companies, including Kevin Hart and Floyd Mayweather Jr. As a producer, he has over 20 credits, including Kevin Hart's "Lough at My Pain" and T.D. Jakes' "Woman Thou Art Loosed: On the 7th Day," earning an NAACP Image Award nomination. Newell holds a J.D. from the University of West Los Angeles and an M.B.A. from Pepperdine University, where he is also an adjunct professor and board member. Outside of his work, he is also involved in several nonprofit boards and is a member of the Producers Guild of America.

Anthony "Tony" J. Oncidi is the co-chair of Proskauer's labor & employment law department and leads the West Coast labor & employment group. With decades of experience, he represents major entertainment and media clients, including the GRAMMYS, Viacom/Paramount Pictures, FOX, Sony Music, the NBA, the NFL and Creative Artists Agency. Oncidi is renowned for his success in high-stakes employment law cases and his influence on industry practices. He frequently appears as a guest on news programs. He also serves as an adjunct professor at USC and UCLA Law Schools and speaks for various legal organizations. Oncidi has authored several legal publications and received numerous awards, including Billboard's Top Music Lawyers. He also engages in pro bono work and serves on several nonprofit boards.



Anthony Oncidi

Co-Chair, Labor &
Employment Law
Department
Proskauer Rose LLP

Mark Pariser

CPA/Partner | *Dunn | Pariser | Peyrot*



Mark Pariser is the go-to financial manager for CEOs and celebrities leading Dunn, Pariser & Peyrot's financial team. Known for his proactive style, he ensures clients' financial stability and growth, allowing them to focus on their careers and personal lives. Pariser specializes in budgeting, cash flow, insurance review and estate and tax planning. His clientele includes Hollywood actors, directors, international executives and entrepreneurs. He joined the Songwriters of North America (SONA) board of directors in 2020 and works with Manifest Works on compliance issues. Pariser's notable clients include a prominent music video director, the band Blue October, rapper Leikeli 47 and film/TV producer Matthew Tolmach. He advises on tax structuring, financial planning, estate planning and business management across various industries.

James R. Parks

Executive Director | *CBIZ MHM, LLC*



James R. Parks, a CPA with over 40 years of experience, co-founded Parks, Palmer, Turner & Yemenidjian, which was later acquired by CBIZ. He leads CBIZ MHM LLC's Los Angeles office, overseeing the business management and family office practice and the Western Region high-net-worth client service group. Parks has extensive tax, business management and litigation consulting experience with Fortune 500 companies and high-net-worth individuals. He facilitated the William H. Holder Chair in Accounting Endowment Fund at USC, where the Master of Business Taxation program was renamed in honor of him and his late wife. Parks has served as a tax expert for the U.S. Department of Justice and as an expert witness in various legal proceedings. Also, he successfully turned around and sold Laser Pacific Media Corporation as well as led the rescue and reopening of Hotel Barriere Fouquet's in New York.

Jonathan Stuart Pink

Global Chair Entertainment, Media & Sports Practice
Lewis Brisbois LLP



For nearly 30 years, Jonathan Pink has been a prominent advocate and mentor for clients in the entertainment industry. Transitioning from a career as a syndicated cartoonist and screenwriter, he became a lawyer specializing in intellectual property representing major names in music, visual arts and film. Starting as a law clerk at Fox News and the U.S. Attorney's Office, Pink moved to

a small firm before joining big law in 2004. His clients include Tina Turner, Tame Impala and The Black Eyed Peas. Recognized with the California State Bar's 2015 Intellectual Property Vanguard Award, he has been featured in top media outlets. He has reclaimed significant copyrights for clients, defended intellectual property rights and mentored young attorneys. Some of his notable cases include defending The Black Eyed Peas and securing Ike Turner's catalog rights.

Robyn R. Polashuk

Partner & Co-Chair of Media & Entertainment Industry Group
Covington & Burling LLP

Robyn Polashuk, co-chair of Covington's entertainment and media industry group, boasts over 20 years of experience in network distribution and content licensing. Advising major networks like AMC Networks, The Walt Disney Company and Paramount Global, she specializes in high-profile distribution agreements for both traditional and online platforms. Notably, Polashuk played a pivotal role in Disney's \$8.5-billion merger of Star India with Reliance's Viacom18 and Disney's groundbreaking carriage deal with Charter Spectrum, hailed as transformative for the television industry. She also assisted Fox Corporation in renewing its agreement with a top-five pay television distributor. Recognized for her expertise, Polashuk has been honored with awards such as Cablefax's Most Powerful Women and Variety's Legal Impact Report.



Derek Van Powell

Director
Altman Solon



Derek Powell, director at Altman Solon, boasts over 20 years of experience in media & entertainment transformation. He specializes in growth strategies, cost programs and emerging tech integration. Notable roles include being the senior manager at Deloitte, SVP at Sony and SVP/GM at Warner Bros. Powell founded Altman Solon's Black employees group, focusing on diversity and allyship. His expertise spans strategic planning, digital operations and post-merger integration. He spearheads global studies on tech adoption in media. Powell mentors students and fosters diversity in the industry through conferences and alumni groups. He serves on boards like A Thousand Joys and the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, empowering underprivileged communities. Committed to education, he mentors students and supports alma maters like UC Irvine. Powell's a thought leader with over 20 articles and speaks at industry events globally.

Erin L. Prouty, partner at Lagerlof, LLP, specializes in estate planning, trust administration and probate litigation. With over 35 years of experience, she's a trusted advisor to high-profile entertainment clients, maintaining their privacy while managing complex matters. Certified by the State Bar of California, Prouty is recognized as a top lawyer by Best Lawyers Magazine and Los Angeles Magazine. She serves on the board of governors of the Beverly Hills Bar Association and lectures at USC and UCLA. As managing attorney of Lagerlof's El Segundo office, Prouty mentors younger attorneys and teaches as an adjunct professor, shaping the future of the legal profession with integrity and skill. Beyond her legal expertise, she is an accomplished beach volleyball player and classical musician.

Erin L. Prouty

Partner
Lagerlof, LLP



Elsa Ramo

Founder &
Managing Partner
Ramo Law PC

Elsa Ramo, founder and managing partner of Ramo Law, leads a pioneering firm specializing in entertainment dealmaking. With over 22 attorneys across N.Y. and L.A., with the majority being female partners, her firm prioritizes diversity and inclusion. Ramo is acclaimed for negotiating deals across emerging and established sectors, benefiting clients like Imagine Entertainment and independent producers such as Yale Entertainment. As a producer with Vested Interest, she's behind acclaimed projects like "Joyland" and "The Card Counter." She contributes to Forbes.com, advocates for women in entertainment through PEFA and educates through Sundance Collab. Ramo's impact extends beyond law, earning her recognition in Variety's Legal Impact Report and Daily Journal's Top 100 Women Lawyers. Nominated for L.A. Times B2B Publishing's Inspirational Women Awards, her firm is celebrated for its excellence by the Los Angeles Business Journal.

Michael Rhodes, a nationally recognized trial lawyer in entertainment, represents industry giants like the Kardashian-Jenner family, Justin and Hailey Bieber, Madonna and others. He's lauded for his victories, which include defending the Kardashian-Jenner family against a \$100-million defamation claim. As outside counsel for Justin Bieber, Rhodes facilitated a \$200-million music rights deal. He also advises on high-stakes matters for entities like Google and Facebook. With 36 years at Cooley, he's held leadership roles and garnered numerous accolades, including The American Lawyer Litigator of the Year and Chambers USA's Top Lawyer. Committed to his community, Rhodes serves as a legal advisor to Sonoma County nonprofits.



Michael Rhodes

Partner
Cooley LLP

Vanessa Roman

Partner | *Akin*



Vanessa Roman, a key figure on Akin's esteemed entertainment team, is highly regarded across the industry for her dealmaking prowess. She advises top financial institutions like Comerica Bank and MUFG Bank on multi-million-dollar financing for major film and TV projects. Her pro bono work includes aiding institutions like the American Film Institute and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Roman's achievements have earned her recognition in Variety's Legal Impact and Dealmakers Impact Reports, as well as Euromoney Expert Guides and The Legal 500 U.S. Recent notable deals include securing financing for Electric Entertainment and Participant Media. She also sits on the board of Female Executives in Media and Entertainment, championing women in the industry and mentoring emerging talent.

Marissa Román Griffith

Partner | *Akin*



Marissa Román Griffith, a prominent figure at Akin's Los Angeles office, is highly respected in the entertainment industry, handling multi-million-dollar deals for major players like Comerica Bank and MUFG Union Bank. Recognized for her impactful work, she has been featured in Variety's Dealmakers Impact and Legal Impact Reports, The Hollywood Reporter's Top 100 Power Lawyers series and more. Notable recent projects include securing financing for Entertainment Studios Motion Pictures and advising MRC on output agreements and production activities. Griffith is deeply committed to diversity and inclusion serving on Akin's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council, co-chairing the Latinx Firmwide Resource Group and mentoring summer associates. She is also actively involved in promoting women in the industry through initiatives like the Women Executives in Entertainment Network.

Congratulations!

Joseph Rust
Thomas F. Smith

for being recognized as 2024 Business of Entertainment Visionaries

Thank you for continuing the tradition of unparalleled, people-first service. Cheers to all of this year's honorees!

We understand the complexities and challenges of the entertainment and music industry. Prager Metis has specialized in accounting and advisory services for the entertainment and music industry since its inception, over 100 years ago.



Aaron Daniel Rosenberg

Partner
Myman Greenspan
Fox Rosenberg
Mobasser Younger
& Light LLP

Aaron D. Rosenberg is a Los Angeles-based entertainment attorney representing high-profile clients in music, film, TV and social media, including Ariana Grande, Jennifer Lopez, John Legend, Meghan Trainor and Troye Sivan. He is a named partner at Myman Greenspan Fox Rosenberg Mobasser Younger & Light LLP, the youngest in the firm's history. Before joining in 2006, Rosenberg was an associate at Greenberg Traurig LLP. He is active on several national boards fighting hate and preserving equal rights, including the Anti-Defamation League. Notable deals include Tate McRae's chart-topping album, John Legend's Pfizer campaign and Ariana Grande's role in "Wicked." Rosenberg obtained his undergraduate education at Harvard in 1999 and then went to Harvard Law in 2002.

Kristina Royce, a renowned family law attorney, garners recognition as a "Troubleshooter" by The Hollywood Reporter for her adept handling of high-profile matrimonial disputes. With over two decades of experience, she's represented celebrities like Arnold Schwarzenegger, Elizabeth Chambers and Channing Tatum, prioritizing privacy and resolution in sensitive cases. As co-chair of Blank Rome's matrimonial & family law practice, Royce oversees a team of 35 attorneys, guiding them with her expertise while managing a substantial caseload. Her strategic approach emphasizes mediation and discretion, steering clear of contentious litigation. Royce's accolades include listings in Chambers USA, Variety's Legal Impact Report and Los Angeles Business Journal's Top 100 Lawyer.



Kristina Royce

Partner and Co-Chair of the Matrimonial & Family Law Practice
Blank Rome LLP

Joseph Rust

Chief Strategic Innovation Officer | Prager Metis



Joseph Rust is a partner in the advisory services department at Prager Metis and a member of the Prager Metis International Group. He serves as chief strategic innovation officer and managing partner for the Western Region, overseeing strategic focus and execution. With over three decades of experience, Rust specializes in the entertainment industry, offering expertise in royalty and profit participation examinations, copyright valuations and financial due diligence. He began his career in 1984 and joined Prager Metis in 1994, opening the Wilshire office. He now oversees five offices in California and Nevada. Outside of Prager Metis, Rust is an active community member, supporting the Alzheimer's Association California Southland. He is also recognized as a thought leader, frequently speaking on AI's impact on the music industry.

Neema T. Sahni

Partner | Covington & Burling LLP



Neema Sahni, partner and co-chair of Covington's entertainment and media industry group and its commercial litigation practice, is a sought-after counsel for major industry players. With extensive experience from her tenure at The Walt Disney Company, she excels in managing legal challenges for high-profile clients like Disney, Paramount Global, Netflix and the NFL. Sahni co-chairs Covington's Music Industry Initiative and is the vice chair of its sports industry group; some of her notable cases include representing Netflix in a copyright dispute with Evil Genius Games and winning a "bump-up" exclusion coverage case for Shari Redstone post the Viacom-CBS merger. She also successfully defended Paramount Global against a franchise fee lawsuit. Some of Sahni's accolades include recognition in Variety's Legal Impact Report three years in a row, Billboard's Top Music Lawyers, The Hollywood Reporter's Power Lawyers and Law360's Media & Entertainment Rising Star.

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Withum congratulates Kevin Holmes, CPA, for being recognized as a 2024 Business of Entertainment Visionary by L.A. Times B2B Publishing in the Envelope Magazine.

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Francois Maximilian Schramek

Managing Director & Financial Advisor
Manhattan West

Francois Maximilian Schramek, CFA, managing director at Manhattan West, has nearly 20 years of experience advising UHNW individuals and institutions, including entertainment figures such as athletes, actors and singers, with an expertise that spans investment allocation, multi-generational wealth strategies and holistic financial planning. His global perspective, shaped by his travels to over 130 countries, enhances his advisory capabilities. Fluent in English, French, German and Spanish, Schramek skillfully navigates international complexities, enabling client expansions into Europe and the Middle East. He holds FINRA Series 7, 63 and 65 licenses and focuses on entertainment, AI, energy transition and space exploration, managing investments ranging from \$5 to \$100 million, with a sweet spot of \$10 to \$20 million.

David Shaheen leads the media & communications group for global corporate banking at J.P. Morgan, where he has spent 15 years directing the entertainment client coverage team. Specializing in global advisory and financing services, his expertise spans film, television, music, live entertainment, video games and agencies. Under Shaheen's leadership, J.P. Morgan has become a leading arranger of financings across the content landscape, with noteworthy transactions including significant deals for Regency Entertainment, Skydance Media, Hasbro, AppLovin Corporation, United Talent Agency, Concord Music and Wasserman Media. In April 2024, he was promoted to head of the expanded global corporate banking unit, underscoring his pivotal role in the firm's global banking growth.



David Shaheen

Head of Media & Communications, Global Corporate Banking
J.P. Morgan



Maytal Shainberg

Managing Director, New Media Group | *East West Bank*

Maytal Shainberg began her career focused on venture capital-backed digital advertising startups, where she developed strong competencies around the publishing, user experience and video categories. In 2015, she joined fintech startup FastPay, where she created the company's sales strategy and led a 15-person team focused on enterprise clients. Today, Shainberg leads East West Bank's new media lending group, leveraging her 15+ years of experience in the new media, advertising and technology industries. Her customer base spans mobile games, podcasts, adtech, social media and multi-channel network businesses. Shainberg's top customers include Scopely, Tastemade, Channel Factory, VideoAmp and Sovrn. Some of her accomplishments include structuring and agenting a \$500-million senior credit facility to a mobile gaming company and leading several \$100-million facilities in new media spaces.

Thomas F. Smith

Partner | *Prager Metis*



Thomas Smith, a partner at Prager Metis CPAs and a member of Prager Metis International, also serves as partner-in-charge of the entertainment and music group. With over 25 years of experience in the accounting industry, he leads a global team, leveraging local and international expertise from the London office and GGI Affiliates. Since becoming partner-in-charge in 2021, Smith has guided the strategic focus and execution across various sectors, including sports, entertainment, art galleries, music and media. Outside of Prager, he actively participates in philanthropic efforts, serving as the team captain for the Alzheimer's Westport Connecticut Walk. His involvement with an invite-only entertainment network has expanded the firm's industry relationships and positioned Prager Metis as a leader in the entertainment sector. Smith is a recognized thought leader, frequently featured on industry panels.

Mary Craig Calkins

Robert L. Kahan

Kristina Royce

Congratulations to our partners **Mary Craig Calkins** (Insurance Recovery), **Robert L. Kahan** (Corporate), and **Kristina Royce** (Matrimonial & Family Law) for being recognized as 2024 "Business of Entertainment Visionaries" by *L.A. Times B2B Publishing*.

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Stanton Stein

Partner and
Head of Media &
Entertainment Group
Russ August & Kabat

Stanton "Larry" Stein, as head of Russ August & Kabat's media & entertainment group, provides comprehensive legal counsel to a diverse array of clients in the entertainment industry, including actors, writers, directors, musicians and production companies. Renowned for his groundbreaking work challenging studio accounting practices, he has reshaped industry standards, earning accolades such as being named a "Top Media and Entertainment Litigator" by Chambers USA and a "Legal Legend" by The Hollywood Reporter. Some of Stein's notable representations include Drake, Simon Cowell, DJ Khaled and the estate of Donna Summer. A graduate of USC School of Law and a former adjunct professor of entertainment law at USC Gould School of Law and Stanford Law School, his expertise spans high-stakes litigation, contract negotiations and intellectual property matters.

Bryan M. Sullivan, partner at Early Sullivan Wright Gizer McRae LLP, is renowned for his strategic legal counsel. With a distinguished reputation among celebrities, he has been instrumental in representing prominent figures like entertainment lawyer Kevin Morris and Hunter Biden in complex legal matters. Additionally, Sullivan advocates for clients such as Olivia Munn in combating deepfake AI-generated content and advises Enderby Entertainment in pioneering ventures like the distribution of full-length feature films as NFTs. Recognized for his outstanding contributions, he has been featured in Variety's Legal Impact Report and named in The Best Lawyers in America® for commercial transactions/UCC law and entertainment law. Moreover, Sullivan's dedication extends beyond the legal realm, as evidenced by his active involvement in nonprofit activism and political campaigns.



Bryan M. Sullivan

Partner
*Early Sullivan
Wright Gizer
& McRae LLP*

Bryan Thompson

Partner | *Barnes & Thornburg LLP*



Bryan Thompson, a partner in Barnes & Thornburg's Los Angeles office, brings extensive expertise in corporate and entertainment law to his practice. Prior to joining, he held senior positions in business and legal affairs at Fox Networks Group and Yahoo! Inc., gaining invaluable experience in both traditional and digital media landscapes. Notable recent transactions include representing Adam Bold in the sale of A3 Artists Agency's digital and alternative divisions to Gersh and advising Peyton Manning and Omaha Productions on a range of projects, including the Manningcast and various podcast initiatives. Additionally, Thompson has worked with Sony Interactive, Lisa Erspamer/Erspamer Productions, Culture Genesis, TV One, FiveCurrents, Kaleidoco and Code Entertainment on a diverse array of entertainment deals and productions.

Alla Vardanyan

Director of Specialty Sales | *First Entertainment Credit Union*



Alla Vardanyan, director of specialty sales, leads the virtual sales, business and A-list services at First Entertainment Credit Union. With over 12 years of experience in the financial industry and a combined portfolio of 3,700 entertainment members, she has played a crucial role in supporting consumers within the credit union and banking sectors and significantly contributed to First Entertainment's success. As an inspirational leader committed to member service, Vardanyan actively supports the credit union's strategies by prioritizing member needs and engaging with their individual stories. Fully embodying the organization's core values, she actively participates in community and business events, including the most recent Art Directors Guild Awards Gala as well as receptions on the Warner Bros. Discovery, Paramount and Sony studio lot locations.

JaHan Wang

EVP of Entertainment Banking | *City National Bank*



JaHan Wang is City National's executive vice president of entertainment banking and a member of the company's senior management team. His team of banking professionals provides custom financing, lending, investing and accounting solutions to clients in film, television, sports, Broadway theater, music and Latin entertainment. Wang has more than 30 years of banking experience. He joined City National in 2007 as a

vice president and senior credit officer before becoming senior vice president and East Coast regional manager for entertainment banking in 2021. In that role, he oversaw City National's entertainment banking offices in New York, Miami, Nashville and Atlanta. Wang was named executive vice president for entertainment banking in 2023.

David Weise

Founding Partner | *David Weise & Associates*

David Weise, founding partner at David Weise & Associates, is a respected figure in the entertainment industry, boasting over 34 years of professional business management experience. Recognized as one of the top business managers in entertainment by The Hollywood Reporter, Variety and Billboard, his career trajectory has been marked by a commitment to excellence and client success. After earning his Bachelor of Science from the University of Arizona, Weise embarked on his career path, starting with a national accounting firm in 1990 before transitioning to business management in 1992. Over the years, he honed his skills and expanded his clientele, eventually founding his own firm in 1999. Under Weise's leadership, the firm experienced significant growth, culminating in the formation of David Weise & Associates, Inc. in 2005.



Pamela Weiser

EVP | Principal,
Commercial
Entertainment
*Momentous
Insurance
Brokerage, a Marsh
& McLennan Agency
LLC Company*



Pamela Weiser has been in the entertainment insurance industry since 1980 and specializes in risk management for films, music and loan-out corporations. In addition, she has acquired an expert level of knowledge in both commercial (non-entertainment) coverage and personal insurance. Weiser's expertise and ability to effectively counsel clients on the importance of appropriate asset protection have enabled her to ascend to leadership positions throughout her career. As executive vice president at Momentous she is responsible for performing coverage reviews and evaluations, client audits and development initiatives, and regulating and monitoring the firm's standard operating procedures. In addition to her experience, Weiser is also a member of the Motion Picture & Television Fund Professional Advisory Network.

Darcy Wilson-Jones leads the national media and entertainment practice at RSM US, drawing from over two decades of experience in public accounting, including a tenure at a Big Four firm. Committed to delivering exceptional client experiences, she serves as a key member of RSM's client experience national advisory group, guiding engagement teams to become first-choice advisors through a deep understanding of clients' businesses and challenges. Wilson-Jones is also dedicated to fostering diversity and inclusion within RSM, serving as the national and West Region executive sponsor of the African American and Canadian Excellence (AACE) employee network group. As a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in California, she maintains active memberships with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the California Society of CPAs.

Darcy Wilson-Jones

Partner
RSM US LLP



Winnie Wong

SVP, Film & Television
Momentous Insurance Brokerage, a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC Company

Winnie Wong is the senior vice president of film & television at Momentous Insurance Brokerage, a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC Company. With 39 years in the industry and 16 years at her current firm, she is a trailblazer known for developing an entertainment insurance book of business in a male-dominated field. A University of Pittsburgh alumna, she has authored "Hollywood Studio Production Techniques" and has spoken at various high-profile industry panels and conferences. Wong specializes in insuring independent features, television, documentaries and commercials, representing prestigious clients such as MGM and Universal Studios. She is recognized for her innovative solutions in entertainment insurance and teaching at UCLA and USC.

Anita Wu, CPA, CFE, serves as a managing director at GHJ, spearheading the profit participation services practice since 2000. With over 25 years of experience, she specializes in profit participation audits in film and television, ensuring equitable profit distribution. Wu's leadership extends to advocating for diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA), reflected in her co-founding GHJ's Women's Empowerment Cohort. She is a renowned speaker on profit participation matters, influencing industry practices and emphasizing integrity and equity. Her community engagement participation includes supporting organizations like the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Los Angeles. Wu's exceptional skills and proactive leadership have advanced GHJ's service offerings and championed transformative changes within the entertainment industry.



Anita Wu
Managing Director
GHJ



Ashley R. Yeargan

Partner | *Russ August & Kabat*

Ashley R. Yeargan, partner at Russ August & Kabat, is renowned in the community for her skills. After graduating from Yale and Stanford Law School, she joined Stanton "Larry" Stein's entertainment practice. Despite the firm's dissolution shortly after, Yeargan found herself handling high-profile cases like Tokyo Broadcasting System's copyright infringement case against ABC and Endemol. She quickly became the go-to for high-stakes matters. Over time, she developed her own practice and retained high-profile clients. Yeargan handles litigation for Drake, defending him in various cases, including the aftermath of the Astroworld Music Festival incident. Additionally, she represents Kendall Jenner's 818 Tequila and handles IP matters for the company. Yeargan's reputation has earned her recognition in publications like The Hollywood Reporter's Power Lawyers, Billboard's Top Music Lawyers and Variety.

Sophia K. Yen

Partner | *Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP Legal Services*

Sophia Yen, partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, is a distinguished dealmaker. Some of her notable recent achievements include guiding AMC in a groundbreaking distribution deal for the "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" concert film and assisting Kevin Hart's HARTBEAT in a capital raise from Abry Partners. Yen also spearheads high-growth initiatives for companies like Wavelength Productions, demonstrating her leadership in driving transformative growth. Beyond her legal prowess, she is actively involved in elevating the AANHPI voice in entertainment, collaborating with organizations like Gold House and serving on the Asia Society Southern California board. Yen's exceptional work has earned her recognition in The Hollywood Reporter's Power Lawyers and Variety's Dealmakers Impact Report, among other accolades, reaffirming her status as a leading figure in the industry.



Tasos Yiangou

Partner | *RSM US LLP*

Tasos Yiangou, a partner at RSM US LLP, is a seasoned leader in the technology, media and entertainment (TMT) sector, spearheading impactful strategies as the head of RSM's Southern California technology, media and entertainment industry practice. With extensive experience in auditing publicly traded companies and large multinationals, Yiangou possesses a deep understanding of the intricate financial landscape. Over the past 24 months, he has played a pivotal role in facilitating communication between RSM UK and RSM US, ensuring seamless collaboration between the two entities. With over a decade of experience gained at esteemed firms such as RSM US LLP, BDO USA, LLP and Grant Thornton, he has honed his expertise in financial management and client-centric solutions.

Dave Young

Partner | *Cooley LLP*

Dave Young, partner at Cooley LLP, is a highly respected attorney renowned for his expertise in various fields. One of his notable representations is his guidance of Kim Kardashian's SKKN through a \$200-million strategic transaction with Coty and Kylie Jenner's Kylie Cosmetics on a \$600-million business combination with Coty. His track record speaks volumes, with notable transactions that include an acquisition of RepairSmith by AutoNation and a \$200-million Series B financing round for Route. Beyond his legal practice, Young is deeply committed to community involvement. He has been a board member of ThursdayNights since 2012, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering connectivity and community in the L.A. innovation and growth economy.



Weinberg Gonser LLP
congratulates its partner
Jordan Matthews
for being recognized as a **2024**
Business of Entertainment Visionary.

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GONSER LLP**