

THE TOP LAW FIRMS OF THE MUSIC BIZ

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LEGAL LEGEND: JOEL KATZ



This issue's special section is dedicated to the top attorneys in the biz, including some trailblazing giants. But no discussion of great music-industry lawyers is complete without a mention of the late, great Joel Katz, who left us earlier this year. He was beloved throughout the music community and was truly one of the architects of the modern business. Sir Lucian Grainge remembered him as "one of the last great characters who knew how to move elegantly and smoothly through the circus." Joel, whose first client was James Brown, was himself a contender for "hardest-working man in show business" on behalf of a starry roster of artists and execs. He'll forever be missed.

WILDCARD

HUNTR/X
“GOLDEN”
VISVA/REPUBLIC



#1 ALBUM
MORGAN WALLEN



9

HITS LIST
BLACKPINK



16

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THROWING HEATERS
JOHN BRANCA



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THE DEALMAKER
ALLEN GRUBMAN

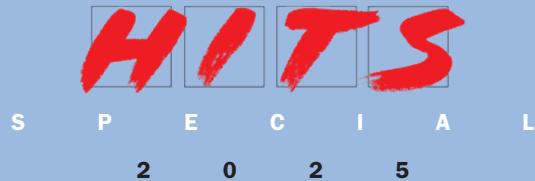


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ON THE COVER: SOMBR



Warner's sombr, who turned 20 shortly before this issue went to press, is arguably the new-artist story of the year. His "back to friends" hit #1 on Spotify global and is hovering in the U.S. Top 5 as well; newer track "undressed" is also streaming superbly. There's Grammy buzz aplenty around the willowy rookie, who could teach a master class in TikTok and other social marketing—he looks like a lock for a BNA nom at the very least. All in all, sombr has little reason to be somber—except, perhaps, his appearance on the cover of this sad rag.



THE LAWYER ISSUE

This special issue shines a spotlight on the top attorneys in the biz, many of whom are currently poring over it while awaiting their McCarthy Salads at the **Polo Lounge**.

The profiles you're about to read present the legal eagles who are reshaping the deal—and thus the biz. We're talking OGs like **Branca**, **Grubman** and **Passman**, heavy-hitting trailblazers such as **Rosenberg**, **LaPolt** and **Granderson**, and an array of young lions who will have to thumb through the mag to find their names.

From the legendary firms to the new boutiques, they're advising on the biggest signings, the hottest JVs, the most sought-after acquisitions and the thorniest licensing agreements. They're diving into the fine print on streaming royalties and AI so you don't have to.

But none of these exceptional legal minds works in a vacuum, which is why, instead of presenting some hermetic list of top attorneys, we invite you into each firm, where the seasoned veterans, up-and-comers and recent law-school grads sit down together to do the heavy lifting that results in the agreements we write about every day. It's where time-honored traditions are honored and new ones are established. And... It's all billable.



Ziffren Brittenham



Top: John Branca; from left: David Lande, David Byrnes

Z

iffren Brittenham bills itself as the firm “where superstars go to strategize their global careers,” and given their roster of clients—and the massive deals their team has negotiated on their behalf—it’s hard to argue.

The firm boasts top movie stars, filmmakers, film studios and entertainment investors among those with whom it strategizes, but even when we limit our scope to music, the view is mightily impressive. Ziffren’s music division is helmed, of course, by **John Branca**, whose work with the **Michael Jackson Estate** is a master class in burnishing, broadening and building upon a mega-legacy, and **David Lande**, who oversaw record deals for his chartbusting clients and helped them set up some of the most gigantic tours now crisscrossing the planet.

Branca, deemed “the world’s leading music attorney” by *Marquis Who’s Who* and aptly described as the department’s paterfamilias, has sculpted the division and lovingly mentored the legal talent you’ll be reading about in a moment. As manager-executor, he has made

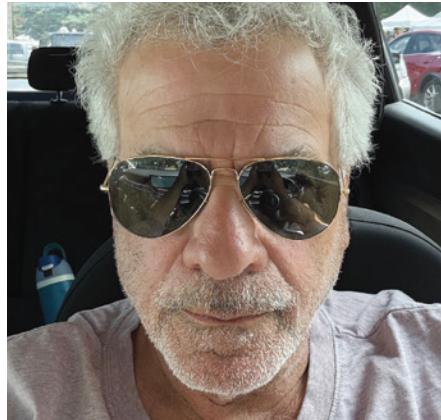
Michael Jackson's the most successful music estate in history, with six live shows worldwide (which have done boffo box-office and swept up multiple **Tonys**), a two-part movie, colossal record deals and much more.

Branca has negotiated distro deals on behalf of **Interscope**, **Rhino** and other labels and recently repped **Carlos Santana** in his pact with **Sony Music** to make Spanish-language records. He has also been a fierce advocate for the protection of music copyrights, a crucial counselor on business strategy for leading industry execs and a bulwark against litigious mischief.

Lande, a senior partner and member of Ziffren's management committee, helped negotiate album and concert deals for: **SZA**, who has the #3 recording YTD and is currently on a barnstorming stadium tour with **Kendrick Lamar**; **Beyoncé**, whose **COWBOY CARTER** Tour—in the wake of her Grammy-winning album—is one of the biggest treks in the world; **Shakira**, whose tour is expected to gross north of \$200m; **Olivia Rodrigo**, about whose blockbuster GUTS album and tour we have already spilled beaucoup ink but who also landed a Lande-guided **Lancôme** endorsement and Netflix concert film; the big comeback of **Linkin Park**; various projects for **Justin Bieber**, including a wedding gig that reportedly earned the star \$10m; and plenty more besides.

Partner **David Byrnes**, meanwhile, who also played a key legal role in Beyoncé's disruptive projects, negotiated **Travis Scott's** gargantuan **Circus Maximus** world tour and innovative Coachella performance. He also did the label, Coachella and **Beats** deals for **BLACKPINK** member **JENNIE** and helped set up the acclaimed **Tom Petty Heartbreakers Beach Party** doc and the posthumous **Mac Miller** album *Balloonism*.

Ziffren Brittenham also the quintessence of a deep bench, as the following confirms.



Mitch Tenzer, Partner

Tenzer worked on brand-extending deals for **SZA** (Super Bowl appearance, **Not Beauty** makeup line, **Ulta Beauty** endorsement deal), **Rodrigo** (the aforementioned **GUTS** tour and **Lancôme** deal as well as **AmEx** and **Stanley**), **ROSALÍA** (**Dior**, **New Balance**, **Calvin Klein**, more), **Beyoncé** (the celebrated **Netflix Beyoncé Bowl**, as well as a performance deal for **Mufasa: The Lion King**) and **Shakira** (a **Hipgnosis** asset sale, **Hard Rock** endorsement deal and **VISA** sponsorship, among others). The L.A.-based Tenzer holds degrees from **Johns Hopkins** and **Harvard Law** and serves as Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of **The Laurence School**.



Kelly Vallon Ciccotti, Partner

Ciccotti worked on Beyoncé's **COWBOY CARTER** album and tour as well as her **Levi's** endorsement deal and tour sponsorships with **Ulta Beauty**, **Marriott** and others. She also coordinated multimedia projects for **Pharrell Williams** and **Justin Bieber**, worked on **Travis Scott's** tour and Coachella perf, did both an **Interscope** record deal and **HomeGoods** endorsement deal for **Jennifer Hudson** and several deals for **Becky G**, including a **Garnier Fructis** endorsement pact, an **Uber Postmates** deal and a Coachella appearance. After getting her B.A. at **NYU**, she earned a J.D. from **USC's Gould School of Law** with a certificate in Entertainment Law; before arriving at Ziffren she worked at multiple labels including **Island Def Jam** and **Universal Motown Republic**; she also held posts at **AEG**, **CAA**, **Paradigm** and **The Colbert Report**.

Ziffren Brittenham



Valerie Marcus, Lawyer

New team member Marcus' projects have included Beyoncé's Paris 2024 Olympics opening film, Shakira's *Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran* world tour, Justin Timberlake's *Forget Tomorrow* world tour, multiple deals for Jennifer Hudson (Old Navy, Hallmark, a holiday album), Travis Scott's Oakley deal, Curb Records' JV deal with UMG and Becky G's Mountain Dew Super Bowl and Fabletics deals. The Oberlin alumna/Yale Law grad previously served as VP of Biz & Legal at RCA.



Mehreen Ahmed Chaudry, Associate

Chaudry has worked on Shakira's gigantic *Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran* album and world tour and performance at the *Copa America* final in Miami, Justin Timberlake's *Forget Tomorrow* world tour and *Everything I Thought It Was* and Pentatonix's record deal with Republic. She graduated cum laude from Pepperdine Law with a certificate in Entertainment Law and magna cum laude from University of Colorado with a B.A. in International Affairs.



Irina Volodarsky, Lawyer

Up-and-comer Volodarsky has made vital contributions to such projects as Linkin Park's comeback, Mac Miller's *Balloonerism*, Selena Gomez on the *Emilia Perez* soundtrack, Weezer's "seasons" albums and 30th anniversary "blue album" tour and JENNIE's *Ruby* album. She has also consistently worked one or more catalog sales every year. Irina, who was inspired to pursue a career in the biz by reports of Branca's deals, received her bachelor's degree from UCLA and her law degree from Loyola Law School.



Juliette Browne, Associate

Browne has worked on SZA's Not Beauty makeup line, collaboration with True Food Kitchen and Super Bowl performance, Beyoncé's COWBOY CARTER album and tour and NFL Christmas performance on Netflix and Olivia Rodrigo's GUTS tour and deals with AmEx, Stanley and Crumbl. She holds a B.A. in American Studies from Georgetown, where she minored in Sociology and Music, and got her J.D. from USC Gould School of Law with a Certificate in Entertainment Law. ■

BOYARSKI FRITZ LLP

Boyarski Fritz LLP is a leading entertainment, media and intellectual property-oriented law firm founded in 2011 by two longtime multi-industry veterans, Jason Boyarski and David Fritz, who sought to bring an entrepreneurial spirit,

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a boutique-oriented feel and a roll-up-your-sleeves approach to entertainment law. Their mantra was to promote, preserve and protect creativity and innovation. Almost a decade and a half later, the firm's mission is still vibrant, earning it national recognition and a key role in the decisions, welfare and health of their clients' legal affairs.

Jason Boyarski

A founding partner of the firm, Boyarski has been named one of America's Top 200 Lawyers by *Forbes*, a top music lawyer by *Billboard*, *Variety* and *The Hollywood Reporter*, and cited as an industry expert by legacy publications including *The New York Times*, *Time* and *The Times of London*.

Boyarski's client roster of recording artists features legendary figures, including the estate of **Earth Wind & Fire's Maurice White**, which has a documentary film in the works directed by **Questlove**, as well as the estates of **Frankie Beverly, Donny Hathaway, Peter Tosh** from **Bob Marley & The Wailers** and bossa nova trailblazer **Antonio Carlos Jobim**. Boyarski also reps **Lil Kim, Thalia**, a former founding member of **Maroon 5** for whom Boyarski recently brokered a catalog sale, **Will Smith**, multi-Grammy winner **Lalah Hathaway, Fetty Wap, Redfoo** of **LMFAO** and **Paul Oakenfold**.

Among the rising artists on Boyarski's roster is **JISOO** of **BLACKPINK**, who inked her first solo record deal with **Warner Records** in 2025, as well as a new publishing agreement. He also reps **Interscope's Towa Bird**, Latin hit-maker **Tainy (Republic), AWAL** breakout **JVKE**, EDM artist **Aluna**,

teen sensation **Dom Innarella** (**Republic**), **Adam Klobi** (**Darkroom/Interscope**), **Just Jayne** (**Capitol/The Core**), **Blake Whiten** (**Enchmnt/Warner**), **Stacey Ryan** (**SoundOn**), **Maddie Zahm** (**AWAL**), **Jordy** (**EMPIRE**), **Catie Turner** (**SoundOn**) and **Universal Music Latino's Álvaro Diaz**.

An expert in music publishing, Boyarski represents some of music's hottest songwriters and producers, including **Louis Bell, Cirkut, Tainy, Stargate** and **Hit-Boy**, for whom Boyarski recently negotiated a catalog sale that contained credits on songs by **Travis Scott, Beyoncé** and **Kendrick Lamar**. Other writer and producer clients include **J White Did It, Federico Vindver, Pete Nappi, Jozzy, Karl Rubin, Sarah Solovay, Lindgren & Melanie Shulz, Claude Kelly, Jessica Agombar**,

DVLP, Ayo, The Wavys and Marty James

In addition to advising institutional companies like **BMG, Create Music, Disney Music, Riot Games, Authentic Brands Group, Musixmatch, Arcade, FilmNation, Invisible Universe, ASICS, Alice+Olivia** and **Hyatt Hotels**, Boyarski also reps some of the most successful entrepreneurs in music, including **Austin Rosen and Electric Feel, Lex Borrero and NEON16, Tommy Mottola, Zach Brandon and Harbor Studios, iHeart's Alissa Pollack, Will Ward, The Revels Group, Slipstream, James Rosemond and Mastermind Artists, Ruff Ryders and Musicow**.

Prior to launching the firm, Jason was the GM/SVP of **Warner Chappell Music**, the VP of business affairs at **UMPG** and **BMG** and an associate at **Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP**.

David Fritz

Founding Partner Fritz has a varied entertainment, media and corporate practice that includes his longstanding representation of **Marc Anthony** and his company **Magnus Media**, which is a collection of businesses including management, hospitality (in partnership with **SBE**), record label and publishing and sports, including the ownership of Miami's **E1 electric boat racing team**.

Fritz also counsels music talents including **Republic's Lil Tecca** and his label, **Galactic Records**, owned by client **Giuseppe Zappala**; **Sony Latin/5020's Gusttavo Lima**; **Havoc** from **Mobb Deep**; **Skaiwater**; and **Lovel Lori (Broke Records)**, as well as burgeoning artists, producers and songwriters that include **Aidan Cullen, Kane Cooper, DINER, Tabi Ellin, Fangbanger, Louis Knight, Menoh Beats, Micro TDH, Noriella, Porsh Bet\$, Jillian Rossi, Timms, Keith Varon, Emily Vaughn, WhoKilledXIX** and **Xie**.

In addition to his talent practice, David works with many music-based companies, including **Jonny Shipes' GoodTalk, Sound Factory Records, Happy Studios, Fab Factory Studios/Red Slushy Records** (home to **The Audacity, Stevie Matthew and Anthony Ortiz**), **Ted**



Fields and Justin Smith's Boosted Records, Web3 powerhouse Infinite Reality (now owner of Napster) and Alex Lunt (manager of Dasha).

Fritz also reps various TV personalities, athletes, technology companies and consumer goods brands including Bethenny Frankel and Nancy Cartwright (the voice of Bart Simpson), Evander Holyfield, the live theatrical presentation of *Enter the Dragon* (based on the film) that will open in Las Vegas next year, the Instagram phenomenon Hoodyville, Steve Madden, KITH, Bubble Beauty, Gami Technologies, VideoShops, esports team owner ReKTGlobal, Fanhaven Ticketing and Talya Elitzer's Terminal Merchandise.

David is also a co-founder of Creative Intell, a legal and educational platform that has PerfectlyLegal.AI, a business affairs solution for the entertainment business, currently in private beta.

Alex Stolls

Once a HITS "Noisemaker," Stolls recently made partner at the firm, where he helps to manage the day-to-day workflow of its associate team. He has a diverse practice focused on transactional dealmaking wherein he counsels an array of the firm's prominent clients as they navigate the complexities of the entertainment landscape, including recent sophisticated music-catalog transactions, noteworthy recording and publishing agreements and acclaimed film and television productions.

In addition to serving as key counsel to many of the firm's high-profile talent clients including the estate of Earth Wind & Fire's Maurice White, Lil Kim, Will Smith, JISOO of BLACKPINK, Álvaro Diaz, Dom Innarella and mega-hitmaking producers like Louis Bell, Cirkut, Stargate, Hit-Boy, Tainy and Federico Vindver, Alex also works closely as outside business affairs counsel to



Alex Stolls



Cara Anstey



Johnna Brooks



Ryan Ashe

some of the firm's pre-eminent company and entrepreneur clients. Among them are Create Music Group, Tommy Mottola, BMG, Electric Feel, NEON16 and Slipstream. Early in his career, Stolls held posts at WME, Leverage Agency, Sportstars, Inc. and Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard LLP.

Cara Anstey

Anstey, an associate at the firm, specializes in contract drafting, negotiation and licensing for many of the firm's creative and company clients. She works with such recording artists as Towa Bird, JISOO, Just Jayne, Jozzy, Tiffany Stringer, Emma Foley, Catie Turner, Jordy, Maddie Zahm, George Pippen, Stacey Ryan, Zai1k and Adam Klobi, as well as producers, labels and publishers including BMG and Electric Feel. Anstey has also been involved in the firm's high-stature recent catalog sales. She was previously an associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, where she worked on the sale of BMI, and posts at Sony and Primary Wave Music, where she was a creative executive.

Johnna Brooks

Brooks is an associate handling a variety of matters in music and intellectual property, with a focus on artist-related transactions, music clearances, producer representation and distribution deals for clients such as Lil Tecca, Hit-Boy, Karl Rubin, Marc Anthony, Ruff Ryders, Havoc, Create Music Group, Soaky Siren, Musicow,



Lauren Menkes



Stephen Goldstein



Laurie Marshall

Nico & Vinz, Lalah Hathaway and Aluna Francis. Before joining the firm, Johnna was an attorney in the legal department at NBCUniversal and an associate at firms including Rogers Law Group, PLLC, James E. McMillan, P.C. and Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, LLP.

Ryan Ashe

An incoming associate at the firm, Ashe previously spent a year as a legal intern at the firm, where he assisted with a diverse array of matters, among them clearances, licensing and legal research. He held several other legal intern positions in the music space, including on ASCAP's legal & business affairs team in New York. Prior to law school, Ashe spent several years as a royalties analyst at ABKCO Music & Records, Inc., where he worked on such high-level publishing catalogs as that of The Rolling Stones; he was also an A&R intern at Primary Wave Music.

Lauren Menkes

Menkes, senior counsel, is the firm's audiovisual specialist, having recently negotiated television, documentary, feature film and podcast deals for the firm's music clients.

She also regularly represents authors, screenwriters, directors, producers, production companies, on-air talent and agencies. Previously, Lauren was a business affairs executive for such companies as UTA, Comedy Central, PorchLight Entertainment, Walt Disney Television, Twentieth Century Fox and Lionsgate.

Stephen Goldstein

As the firm's corporate law specialist, Of Counsel Goldstein has broad-based corporate deal-making experience, having represented companies of all sizes in various industries. His extensive experience includes corporate governance, operating agreements, corporate finance and formation, employment matters and M&A. Goldstein has assisted many firm clients on major corporate transactions.

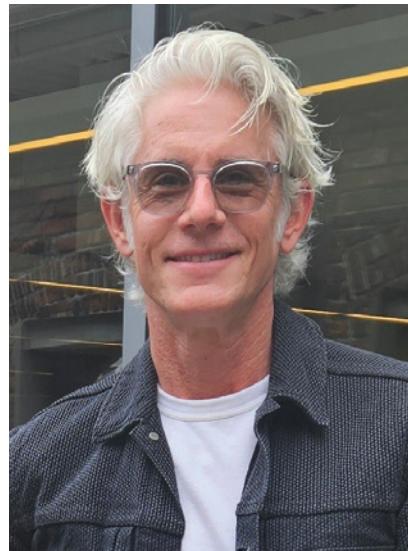
Laurie Marshall

Marshall, of counsel, serves as the firm's trademark specialist. With many years of experience, she represents clients with a primary focus on intellectual property matters, including trademark registration, prosecution, searches and clearance. She previously spent 10 years at Major League Baseball. ■

DAVIS SHAPIRO LEWIT GRABEL



Steve Shapiro



Peter Lewit



Richard Grabel

O

ver the last three decades, the boutique, bicoastal powerhouse firm now known as Davis Shapiro Lewit Grabel has been influential in its client representation and served as the launching pad for some of the most successful executives in music. Led by co-managing Partners Peter Lewit and Steve Shapiro, as well as Richard Grabel, the

firm is an institution among music-biz legal eagles and has a stellar reputation for hosting parties.

As the story goes, Fred Davis and Shapiro met in the halls of EMI in the early '90s while Shapiro was working in business affairs. Davis left EMI in 1994 to open his own Central Park-adjacent boutique and two years later hired a young Peter Lewit, who had some experience on the ground as a tour manager for NYC jam band The Hatters. Shapiro joined in 1997, officially launching the firm Davis & Shapiro.

Shapiro immediately added an elite list of hip-hop clients to the firm's roster, including influential manager Chris Lighty

and acts like Busta Rhymes, Missy Elliott and LL COOL J, and labels EMI and rap haven Def Jam. Shapiro is now a foremost specialist focusing on catalog sales/securitizations and various label/publishing and related ventures. Lewit joined the masthead in 2000 and subsequently expanded his practice to include MGMT, Coheed and Cambria and Toro y Moi. NME and Rolling Stone veteran Grabel joined the firm in 2005, bringing with him an array of rock acts including Interpol, Modest Mouse and Built to Spill.

A shortlist of Davis Shapiro alumni underscores how impactful the firm's footprint has been in the biz. Music executives like Ian Montone, Downtown CEO Andrew Bergman, and My Chemical Romance manager Stacy Fass are graduates of the firm, as are several attorneys who founded their own boutiques featured in this issue.

In its current state, the firm continues to evolve as a giant in hip-hop—led by Shapiro's legacy of representing nearly every reputable rap name in the '90s and '00s—and in rock and pop, with Lewit representing acts like The Neighbourhood, Steven Sanchez, David Kushner, Clairo, Chance the Rapper and Ingrid Michaelson, and Grabel advising Sonic Youth and The Lumineers for multiple decades as well as buzzing acts like Big Thief, Weyes Blood and Surf Curse.



Ed Paparo



Clare Paterson



Bruce Scavuzzo



Doreen Small



David Wheatley



Nicole Della Maggiore



Jonathan Suser



Justin Sagnella



Sami Rosenblatt

Ed Paparo

Paparo is a senior partner at the firm whose experience in entertainment spans multiple decades, with stints at **Polygram** and **MTV** on his résumé, while also launching his own publishing company and entertainment practice. Paparo, who is very busy with catalog sales and acquisitions, also does significant work with firm clients Chance the Rapper, Coheed and Cambria and **Alex Coletti Productions**.

Clare Paterson

Paterson, who joined the firm in 2019 as partner, has an eclectic client list that includes **Malcolm Todd**, who just completed his sold-out U.S. tour; **Babyface Ray**; R&B songstress **UMI**; folk singer **Haley Heynderickx**; frequent **Justin Bieber** and **Shawn Mendes** collaborator **Eddie Benjamin**; and **Ginger Root**. Paterson is a graduate of **McGill University**'s faculty of law, and in addition to her client-facing work, she plays a key role in mentoring the next generation of attorneys at **DSLG**.

Bruce Scavuzzo

A partner at the firm, Scavuzzo is affectionately known at **DSLG** as “the publishing guy.” He joined the firm in 2019 after spending a combined 26 years in-house at **Sony Music Publishing** and **EMI Music Publishing**, where his most recent position was SVP, legal and business affairs. He got his start in the legal department of **RCA Records**, where he worked from 1990-1993. Scavuzzo specializes in music-publishing matters and is also very involved in Davis Shapiro’s

asset-sales work. He continues to represent Sony Music Publishing on copyright acquisitions and other publishing agreements.

Doreen Small

Small is a highly regarded intellectual property, fashion and entertainment lawyer and a leading expert in the field of fashion modeling law. In addition to her role as partner at Davis Shapiro, she is an adjunct professor at the **Fashion Law Institute** at **Fordham Law School**, where she created the first-ever course in **Fashion Modeling Law**. Small currently represents models, agencies, sports figures, artists and interior designers. She has also served as both outside and in-house counsel for major companies like **Ford Models**, **NBC** and **Warnaco**. In addition to these roles, Small is an accomplished film producer and editor on projects for **David Lynch**, **Neil Young**, **Frank Zappa**, **Albert Brooks** and **SNL**.

David Wheatley

After joining the firm in 2020, Wheatley showcased his experience in both publishing and recorded music and was made a partner in 2022. Working with a range of artist, producer, writer, label and publisher clients, Wheatley is also active in the firm’s big-ticket assets sales. In his spare time, he enjoys playing guitar and spending time with his two children.

Nicole Della Maggiore

Following roles at **Sony Music** and **Insomniac**, Nicole joined Davis Shapiro five years ago and has since cleared countless albums and negotiated record, publishing and endorsement deals for firm clients like **MGMT**, **Clairo**, **DaBaby**, **BENEE**, **Local Natives**, and **Laundry Day**. She also represents **Clinton Kane**, **Sophie Powers** and **Shotgun Willy** with Lewit, Paterson and Grabel, respectively.

Jonathan Suser

Suser came to Davis Shapiro almost five years ago, after starting his career at **The Orchard**. In addition to working with firm clients like **Stephen Sanchez**, **Chance the Rapper**, **Toro y Moi** and **Sonic Youth**, Jonathan represents the fast-rising phonk label and publishing company, **Sketch Music**, and Chicago based rapper **Kaicrewsade**.

Justin Sagnella

Sagnella joined the Davis Shapiro team in February. Prior to that, he held in-house legal roles at **Sony Music** and **Secretly Group**. His legal experience spans a wide range of industry matters, including artist agreements, licensing and intellectual-property matters.

Sami Rosenblatt

New to the firm, Rosenblatt holds a JD from the **Cardozo School of Law** and is a New York native and **USC** alumna. ■

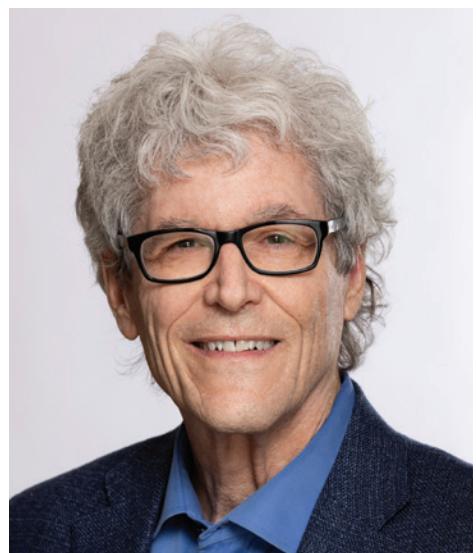
Gang, Tyre, Ramer, Brown & Passman



onald S. Passman first joined the entertainment firm **Gang, Tyre, Ramer & Brown** in the 1970s, shortly after graduating from Harvard Law School. Under mentor Payson Wolff, who clerked for Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren and represented Capitol Records, Warner Bros. Records and Bob Hope, Passman learned how to draft contracts for entertainment law from one of the best to ever do it. Passman made his bones during Mo Ostin's tenure at WBR, which would lean on the firm's music department as an outside resource.

Passman is also known for writing what has long been considered the music-business bible, *All You Need to Know About the Music Business*, originally published in 1991, and now in its 11th edition, which covers the shift of power to the artists, the effect of AI on music and other new information.

The firm's music department is led by Passman and partners Gene Salomon and Ethan Schiffres. Superstars P!nk, Taylor Swift and Green Day have been longtime clients of the firm. Gang Tyre also represents Adele, Billie Eilish, Kendrick Lamar and Elton John. The firm recently represented Randy



Donald S. Passman



Gene Salomon



Ethan Schiffres

Newman in his catalog sale to **Litmus**.

Prior to joining the firm in December 2000, Salomon spent 13 years at **Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp** as partner and head of its music practice. Salomon is the managing partner of the firm, and he also serves as chair of the board of the **Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games**. Salomon has also been involved in numerous international endeavors, including representing **Music Nation Copyrights** in forming the most advanced CMO for the UAE and DGMC in a deal with **Universal Music Group** to bring Capitol Studios to Abu Dhabi (the first ever Capitol-branded studio outside Los Angeles).

Schiffres, who started his career at **Sony Music and Red Light Management** prior to attending Harvard Law School, recently celebrated his 14th anniversary at Gang Tyre. The **Duke** graduate serves as the chair of Gang Tyre's charity committee, where he oversees the philanthropic spending by the firm's foundation. Schiffres represents **Oscar/Grammy/Emmy**-winning composer-writer-producer **Ludwig Göransson**, who scored and executive-produced **Ryan Coogler's** box office smash **Sinners**. He also works with **Stevie Wonder, Phoebe Bridgers, FINNEAS** and **Anthony Ramos**.

The firm's music team is rounded out by **Leni Ackerman** and **David Agnew**.

Ackerman plays a key role in the firm's collaborative approach to helping clients navigate the evolving music industry. As part of a team that is

deeply committed to protecting artists' creative and business interests, she helps negotiate and structure deals that preserve long-term brand value and artistic integrity. Before joining the firm, Ackerman was an associate in **Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's** Los Angeles office, where she represented media, entertainment and sports clients in a variety of business transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, capital raises and restructurings. She earned her law degree from the **University of Texas at Austin**.

Agnew graduated from **Georgetown University**, was a visiting scholar at **Oxford University** and received his law degree from **Columbia University**, where he served as editor-in-chief of the **Columbia Journal of Law & the Arts**. He began his career as an associate at **Mitchell, Silberberg & Knupp**. From there he became a lawyer and business affairs executive at **Sony Music**, before moving to **Disney**, where he spent over a dozen years, rising to become president of **Walt Disney Records & Music Publishing** and EVP of the **Disney Music Group** during the company's chart-topping years with *High School Musical*, *Jonas Brothers*, *Miley Cyrus*, *Selena Gomez* and *Demi Lovato*. Prior to joining the firm, Agnew worked as a consultant and lawyer representing clients in the entertainment, fine arts, AI, architecture and hospitality industries, launched **Vinyl Moon**, a vinyl record subscription service, and served a five-year stint as President of **StandardVision**, a leading architectural media and design firm. ■



Leni Ackerman



David Agnew

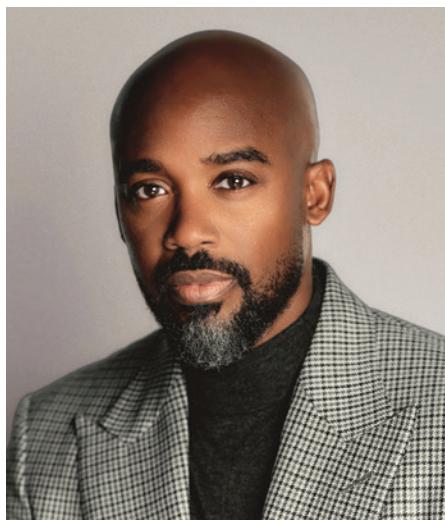
GRANDERSON DES ROCHERS, LLP

Damien Granderson, Founding Partner and Chair of Music Practice

Granderson's clients include a diverse slate of global superstars and influential independent labels. He represents A\$AP Rocky, RAYE, J Balvin, Rod Wave, Ne-Yo, Wizkid, Bryson Tiller, Ayra Starr, Snoh Aalegra, Queen Naija,

Lay Bankz, Ms. Lauryn Hill, Issa Rae's Raedio LLC, Young Thug, Buju Banton and Shaggy, as well as groundbreaking labels such as Quality Control Music (Lil Yachty, Lil Baby, JT), Rancho Humilde (Fuerza Regida, Junior H), Paper Route Empire (Key Glock, Young Dolph), AWGE (Playboi Carti), R&R (Adam Melchor, Mk.gee), Hitmaker (Busta Rhymes, Bhad Bhabie) and the U.K.-based Neighbourhood (Dave). Granderson has recently negotiated

high-profile deals spanning music, fashion and live performance, including RAYE's Grammy and Academy Awards performances, J Balvin's Back to Rayo Tour and Ne-Yo's Champagne and Roses Tour. He led the Paper Route-Republic Records joint venture for Key Glock, secured Native Lands' label deal with Warner Records and structured The Black Label's venture with Capitol Records for

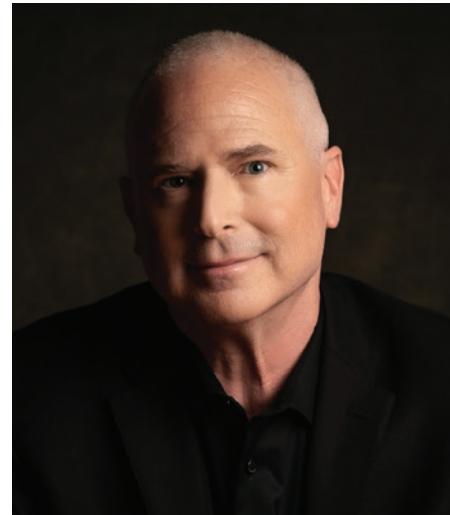


rising artist Meow. In the brand and fashion space, Granderson brokered A\$AP Rocky's partnerships with Ray-Ban (as its first-ever creative director), Puma Formula 1 and Bottega Veneta, as well as Kelsey Lu's Gucci 2025 Cruise Collection campaign and J Balvin's Futura x Marc Jacobs capsule collaboration.

Guy Blake, Founding and Managing Partner, Chair of Music Publishing Practice

Renowned music industry attorney Blake developed a unique practice, representing music legends such as Harvey Mason Jr., Bernie Taupin

and Shaggy, in addition to lending his unparalleled publishing expertise to the GDR teams repping RAYE, J Balvin, Wizkid and A\$AP Rocky, as well as entertainment companies Quality Control, SoundCloud and Issa Rae's Raedio LLC. Blake has handled numerous catalog deals for such artists as The Notorious B.I.G., Ne-Yo and Timbaland, in addition to helping launch and develop independent companies. Additionally, he represents record producer, songwriter and musician Bekon, who recently wrote and produced Hozier's #1 record "Too Sweet." Prior to launching GDR,



From left: Damien with A\$AP Rocky, Taraji P. Henson and Spike Lee in Cannes; with J Balvin and Valentina Ferrer



From left: Elizabeth Moody, Colin Morrissey, Lynn Gonzalez and Corey Martin

Blake served as a partner at Davis Shapiro Lewit Grabel Leven Granderson & Blake, LLP, and as SVP of legal & business affairs at Warner Chappell Music.

Elizabeth Moody, Senior Partner and Chair of New Media Practice

Moody is a digital-media trailblazer who has shaped the evolution of music and video licensing since the post-Napster era. She's worked as both outside counsel and in-house at leading platforms including YouTube and Pandora, helping drive the industry's transition to digital.

Moody remains at the forefront of music and technology, advising clients on licensing strategies that open new revenue streams and business models. She is currently working with multiple generative-audio and voice-AI companies, some publicly launched, others in stealth, crafting partnerships that bridge the gap between rightsholders and emerging tech. These are among the first licensing frameworks in the AI music space, designed to protect creators while supporting innovation. Moody encourages the industry to view AI as a tool to enhance, not replace, human creativity. Her work also spans the gaming world. She serves as music counsel to Roblox and Wave XR and leads licensing strategy for Styngr's music-gaming platform.

She continues to shape the future of streaming by advising companies focused on fan connection and artist-first models. She represents Coda Music and Trio, both forthcoming platforms reimagining how users engage with music and how artists get paid. She is also advising Vocana, a new social streaming platform built for the independent label community.

Colin Morrissey, Founding Partner

Morrissey has built an incredibly impressive client roster, which includes SoFayo, Nic Nac, rapper-model-skateboarder Sage Ellesser p/k/a Navy Blue and label and management company SinceThe80s. He spearheaded the negotiation of SoFayo's recording agreement with Travis Scott's Cactus Jack Records and his publishing deal with BMG, as well as a label venture for SinceThe80s with Epic Records. Morrissey is also an invaluable member of the GDR teams handling high-profile artists A\$AP Rocky, Wizkid, Rod Wave, Ne-Yo, Bryson Tiller and Young Thug, and label clients including SoundCloud, Paper Route Empire, R&R and Hitmaker. Beyond his legal practice, Morrissey devotes much of his time to mentoring GDR's associates, training the firm's next generation of young lawyers. He began his career in the music business at Warner Music Group, followed by nearly 10 years in the New York office of Davis Shapiro Lewit Grabel Leven Granderson & Blake, LLP.

Lynn Gonzalez, Partner

Before joining GDR in September 2023, renowned entertainment attorney and executive Gonzalez spent a decade at Def Jam Recordings, ultimately serving as EVP and head of business affairs and business development. As the label's lead attorney, she oversaw legal matters for a roster of renowned artists and personally handled deals for Justin Bieber, 2 Chainz, Teyana Taylor, Pusha T and Rihanna (including the deal for her single on the soundtrack for *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*), as well as handling the label deal for DJ Khaled. At GDR, Gonzalez plays a central role in growing the firm's Latin music practice. She works on high-profile Latin clients including Rancho Humilde, J Balvin, Danna Paola and Lara Project. She is a member of the GDR team representing singer-songwriter RAYE, who last year made history by winning six BRIT Awards, including Song of the Year, Artist of the Year and Album of the Year. Gonzalez draws on her experience leading the business affairs department at a major label to guide entrepreneurs and independent labels, including Issa Rae's Raedio LLC, SoundCloud, L.A. Reid's Mega and Ben Persky's R&R, as they grow their businesses in today's rapidly changing label landscape. She is also a member of the GDR team working with Christian R&B artist Lee Vasi, navigating her negotiations with major secular and Christian labels, and represents prolific Indian superstar Sid Sriram.

Corey Martin, Managing Partner and Chair of Entertainment Finance Practice

Martin guides the firm's clients as they navigate complex mergers and acquisitions, licensing, JV and financing transactions. In his role as chair of the firm's entertainment finance practice, Martin oversees all corporate transactional matters on behalf of entertainment industry luminaries. In connection with this role, he was an integral member of the GDR teams representing QC Media Holdings, Inc. in its sale transaction with HYBE USA, the principals of Neighbourhood Records Ltd. in their recent transaction with Universal Music Limited and Notorious, LLC in its catalog sale transaction with Primary Wave. Martin began his legal career at Shearman & Sterling, LLP, where he practiced corporate law in the mergers & acquisitions practice group. He later joined Loeb & Loeb, LLP as a partner in the private equity practice group and subsequently joined Davis Shapiro Lewit Grabel Leven Granderson & Blake, LLP as a partner and chair of the corporate practice group.■

GREENBERG TRAURIG

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reenberg Traurig's Entertainment &

Media Practice is a global leader with a multi-disciplinary team and offices in key entertainment hubs worldwide. Their music-industry attorneys leverage experience and strong relationships across the biz, providing strategic legal counsel to recording artists, songwriters, producers, labels, publishers, investors and technology innovators.

GT represents clients on both the talent and industry sides, advising on major recording and publishing deals, catalog acquisitions, touring, festival formation, content licensing, merchandising, sponsorships and digital distribution. Their team works seamlessly across the U.S., Europe, Latin America, the Middle East

and Asia, offering cross-border representation and tailored solutions that reflect the rapid evolution of the global music marketplace.

In addition to music experience, Greenberg Traurig is among the first U.S. firms to establish a branded media practice, now recognized as one of the largest worldwide. GT attorneys counsel clients in film, television (traditional and streaming), digital media, live stage, esports, virtual reality, literary and theatrical productions and branded entertainment. They also provide comprehensive advice on transactional and litigation matters, media financing, intellectual property, tax, immigration, real estate, labor and employment and government regulation.

Staying at the forefront of industry trends and emerging technologies, GT delivers business-oriented legal counsel essential for navigating today's dynamic entertainment and media landscape.



Charles J. Biederman



Deprise Brazel



Jay L. Cooper



Robert J. Finan



Lawrence A. Kanusher



Jonathan B. Koby

Bobby Rosenblum

Shareholder, Atlanta

Chairman of GT's Global Entertainment & Media Practice, Rosenblum is widely considered a chief architect of the modern digital-music business. He recently led the Recording Academy's 10-year global media-rights deal with Disney/ABC for the Grammy Awards and other Academy programming on ABC, Disney+ and Hulu beginning in 2027, one of the largest non-sports television deals in history. He represents leaders in entertainment, technology, digital media and AI, advising on global media strategies and licensing.

Charles J. Biederman

Shareholder, Los Angeles

Biederman handles all aspects of entertainment and media, including music, film, TV, branding, fashion, advertising, video games and apps. He represents recording artists, producers, studios, composers and actors, as well as publishing and record companies internationally. He has played a key role in music-catalog sales and securitizations

and frequently handles employment agreements and complex transactions for industry professionals.

Jay L. Cooper

Shareholder, Los Angeles

Founder of GT's Los Angeles Entertainment Practice, Cooper focuses on music, motion picture, TV, internet and IP issues. He represents individuals and companies in a wide array of IP matters and contract negotiations, including major artists and composers. Clients include Mel Brooks, Sheryl Crow, Yo-Yo Ma, Katy Perry, Jerry Seinfeld and John Williams.

Robert J. Finan

Of Counsel, Atlanta

Finan focuses on transactional entertainment law, advising high-profile recording artists, producers, managers, publishers and songwriters. He has 25 years of experience negotiating and drafting a wide range of music-industry agreements, including recording, publishing, management, merchandising and licensing, supporting clients in all facets of entertainment.

Lawrence A. Kanusher

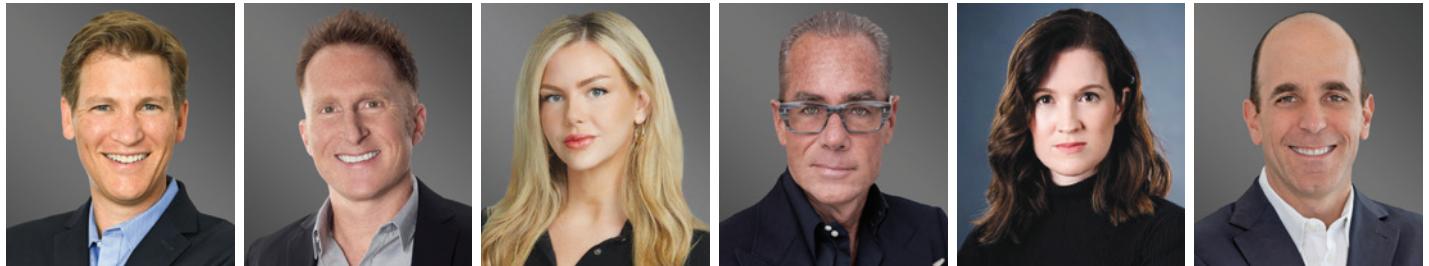
Shareholder, New York and Atlanta

Kanusher represents clients in complex entertainment, media, IP and technology transactions, with a concentration in recorded music and musical work. With over 30 years of experience, he is skilled in navigating business models, negotiation strategy, legal exposure and risk avoidance for digital businesses.

Jonathan B. Koby

Shareholder, Atlanta

Koby is a distinguished entertainment attorney with broad experience representing talent in music and entertainment. As a shareholder and member of GT's Global Entertainment & Media Practice, he advises multi-Grammy-winning artists, songwriters, producers, executives, music festivals, recording and distribution companies, publishing companies, merchandising firms and fan-engagement platforms.



Top row: Jake Phillips, Steve Plinio, Paige Kaplan Randolph, Jess Rosen, Sarah Rosenbaum and Bobby Rosenbloum; row two: Paul D. Schindler, Duane D. Sitar and Charmaine D. Smith; row three: Jeffrey M. Smith and Kike Aluko Wahutu; bottom row: Jared S. Welsh and Monica W. Zhang

Jake Phillips

Shareholder, Atlanta

Phillips counsels media and technology companies, talent and brands on entertainment-related transactions. His practice centers on the intersection of traditional and new media, from AI startups to gaming companies, social-media giants, production companies and streaming services. He advises clients on the development of new business models, negotiation strategy, IP and risk management.

Steve Plinio

Shareholder, Los Angeles

Plinio represents artists, producers and songwriters across genres, including Katy Perry, Matthew Koma, Dave Barnes and Winnetka Bowling League. With over 20 years of experience, his practice covers recording, publishing, touring, merchandising, film and TV, sponsorships and technology. He brings a background as a musician and executive to his legal work.

Jess Rosen

Shareholder, Atlanta

Co-chair of GT's Atlanta Entertainment & Media Practice, Rosen is one of the most distinguished attorneys in the biz, representing leading songwriters, producers, artists, actors and executives. With over 30 years of experience, he advises on music asset sales and celebrity brand deals. His clients include Kane Brown, Kenny Chesney, Miranda Lambert, Steve Martin, Kacey Musgraves, Reba, Thomas Rhett and George Strait.

Paul D. Schindler

Shareholder, New York

Schindler serves as senior chair of the New York Entertainment & Media Practice and is renowned for his vast knowledge of entertainment law. Focusing on music, he negotiates recording, publishing, touring, merchandising, endorsement and catalog sales and acquisitions for artists, producers and songwriters, playing a central role in landmark industry deals throughout his distinguished career. Additionally, he has represented clients in film, TV, branding

and concert promotion worldwide.

Charmaine D. Smith

Shareholder, Atlanta

Smith has nearly 25 years of IP law experience, with over 18 years in digital-music-rights licensing. She focuses on advising companies on the digital-music-rights licensing landscape, formulating client-specific licensing approaches and royalty structures and negotiating deals with music content licensors in the U.S. and internationally.

Duane D. Sitar

Shareholder, Atlanta

Sitar focuses on entertainment-industry matters for record and music publishing companies, executives and other professionals, including acquisitions, dispositions and alliances. He also advises on capital finance, estate planning and general business transactions.

Jeffrey M. Smith

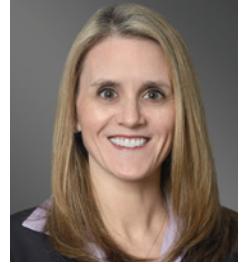
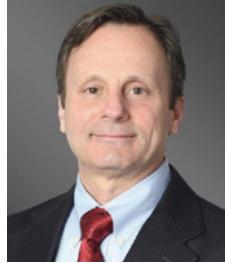
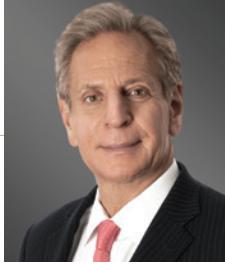
Shareholder, Atlanta

Smith represents top entertainers, athletes and leisure-industry companies—including Aerosmith, Margaritaville Enterprises and Future—in music, sports, hospitality and branded-product transactions. He serves as sole trustee of the Margaritaville Alcohol Beverage Trust, has taught at notable universities, co-authored the treatises *Legal Opinions in Business Transactions* and the five-volume *Legal Malpractice* and has been recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Jared S. Welsh

Shareholder, Atlanta

Welsh counsels entertainment and digital-media companies and creators, from individuals and startups to global brands, on a broad range of entertainment matters, with a focus on complex music and media transactions, particularly digital-music distribution deals with labels, publishers and rights societies around the world and major television and digital distribution deals for tentpole entertainment properties.



Monica W. Zhang

Of Counsel, Los Angeles

Zhang represents recording artists, songwriters, producers and music companies in transactional matters, including music asset acquisitions, copyright and trademark issues and music clearance. She advises clients on content usage and financing, providing practical guidance across the music industry.

Deprise Brazel, Paige Kaplan Randolph, Sarah Rosenbaum and Kike Aluko Wahutu enhance GT's Entertainment & Media Practice with deep music-industry knowledge. Their experience covers negotiating and drafting recording, producer and songwriter agreements, digital-music licensing and representing talent across emerging technologies. With creative and business backgrounds, they help artists, publishers and digital services confidently navigate the evolving music landscape. ■

GRUBMAN SHIRE MEISELAS & SACKS, P.C.



From left: Eric Sacks,
Larry Shire, Allen Grubman
and Kenny Meiselas

Grubman Shire Meiselas & Sacks, P.C. is the largest and most prominent entertainment and media law firm in the world, with a longstanding reputation for representing the biggest names, companies and executives in music, film, television, sports and digital media. The firm is known for its deep industry connections and elite client roster. GSMS has played a pivotal role over the decades in negotiating high-stakes record deals, talent agreements, publishing agreements, brand partnerships and touring contracts. The firm, founded by **Allen Grubman**, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. The firm's practice covers all areas of media and entertainment, with

the other named partners, **Larry Shire** (head of film/TV), **Kenny Meiselas** (head of music) and **Eric Sacks** (head of corporate), running their respective departments, which all work closely together in a manner that provides seamless integration when meeting the multiplatform and entrepreneurial needs of their clients, providing them with unmatched representation across all aspects of their careers.

Allen Grubman, Founding Partner

Grubman is the first practicing lawyer to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. He is widely regarded as the most influential entertainment attorney of his generation and

the consummate deal-maker. Over his legendary career, Grubman has represented the industry's biggest stars, companies and executives. In addition to talent representation, Grubman has advised on landmark deals involving major labels, companies and streaming platforms, including representing **Warner Bros. Discovery** this year in its joint venture with **Cutting Edge Group** to co-own WBD's vast catalog of film and TV music—one of the largest music-rights deals ever transacted.

Larry Shire, Head of Film/TV/Theater/ Sports Department

Shire's department represents a wide array of clients in the areas of film,

television, theater, book publishing and sports and often collaborates with the music and corporate departments on multimedia deals. Shire represented **Bruce Springsteen** on the current major Disney film *Deliver Me From Nowhere* starring **Jeremy Allen White**, as well as *Road Diary: Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band*, the new Hulu/Disney+ documentary about his 2023-24 tour. He also helped U2 in the band's historic opening of **Sphere** in Las Vegas and **Bono** in his live one-man show, *Stories of Surrender*. Shire represented **David Byrne** in connection with the new A24 IMAX release of the classic concert film *Stop Making Sense*, as well as **Andrew Lloyd Webber** in all his endeavors, including a new Off-Broadway immersive experience inspired by *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Shire's group represents **Jerry Seinfeld** on all his entertainment matters. **LeBron James** is a long-time client, and Larry and his colleagues negotiate all of his deals, including his lifetime billion-dollar **Nike** deal and high-end endorsement deals



Larry Shire



Kenny Meiselas and Usher



Eric Sacks

including LVMH, Fanatics and his gold medal appearance in the 2024 Summer Paris Olympics. His group represents Spike Lee in his directing and producing endeavors, including his newest film, *Highest 2 Lowest*, which premiered at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival.

Shire's diverse client base also includes Robert De Niro, David Letterman, the New England Patriots and Arnold Schwarzenegger, along with dynamic figures like Gayle King, Andrew Ross Sorkin, Brett Baier, Martha Stewart and Diane Sawyer. He is heavily supported by longtime partners Karen Gottlieb, Peter Grant, Robert Strent, Jonathan Ehrlich, Gil Karson, Jonathan Lonner, Adam Rosen, Stuart Fried (licensing), Eric Zohn and Jonathan Birkhahn, as well as associates Arielle Matza, Daniela Cassorla, Samantha Sheft, Julia Blumenthal and Vishaal Sharma.

Kenny Meiselas, Head of Music Department

Meiselas' music department represents its elite superstars in their music, branding, licensing and other diverse activities in entertainment and media transactions. This past year, the firm represented The Weeknd in connection with his critically acclaimed, chart-topping *Hurry Up Tomorrow*, as well as in connection with the major motion picture

bearing the same title and sold-out stadium tour. It also represented USHER with respect to his Super Bowl performance, sold-out world tour and endorsement deals with Ralph Lauren, BMW and Uber Eats.

The firm represented Lady Gaga in connection with the release of her #1 album *Mayhem*, as well as her film and branding deals, and represented Andre 3000 in connection with his world tour and critically acclaimed album *New Blue Sun*, which was nominated for the Grammy Album of the Year.

The music department has several distinguished partners with decades of experience assisting in the representation of its diverse superstars, including Don Friedman (Springsteen, Whitney Houston), Pam Gurley (USHER, Britney Spears, Andre 3000, Carly Rae Jepsen), Matt Kamen (Sombr, Chris Brown, Latto), Joe Penachio (The Weeknd, the XO label, Norah Jones), Ted Harris (Shania Twain, Lil Wayne, Nas), Grace Kim (Lizzo, Madonna), David Toraya (U2), Joe Brenner (U2, Sting, Mariah Carey), Ilana Shapiro (Mariah Carey, Madison Beer)

and Sonya Guardo (Lady Gaga, Priyanka Chopra). Associates Mica Rollack, Nick DeLisa, Katie Dixon and Coral O'Conner work with the team across all client matters. Additionally, Partner Stuart Prager (AC/DC), assisted by associate Tomer Levinger, oversees the firm's publishing deals, including in connection with the sale and acquisitions of several of the most prestigious catalogs in the music industry.

Eric Sacks, Head of Corporate Department

Sacks runs the corporate department, which has represented major companies and artists in several of the largest mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures in the music and entertainment industry. He collaborates with a team of seasoned corporate transactional experts including partners Branch Furtado and Jona Lundborg and associates Kyle Zimmerman and David Relihan.

Recently, the corporate team represented Live Nation, Sony Music, HYBE America and iHeart on various acquisitions, investments, strategic partnerships

and joint ventures, including representing Santa Anna Label Group in its investment and partnership with OVO Sound, Sony Music Masterworks in its majority investment in Black Sky Creative and iHeart in its partnership with Airtasker. Sacks represents Atlantic CEO Elliot Grainge on a range of matters, including with respect to 10K Projects' venture with Warner Music Group, as well as Irving Azoff's Iconic Artists Group. Sacks, with Shire, represented LeBron James on many recent transactions, including the merger of James' SpringHill Company with Fulwell 73 Productions. The corporate department also worked with Shire representing Dan Houser (creator of Grand Theft Auto) in the formation of his new independent video game and media company, Absurd Ventures. The corporate group, with Meiselas, recently worked on various private investments and corporate matters for The Weeknd, Nas and USHER. Sacks also represents many of the top executives in music, television and sports in their employment and service arrangements, including Mike Levine and Howie Nuchow (co-heads of CAA Sports), Andrew Ross Sorkin (co-anchor of CNBC's Squawk Box) and Scott O'Neil (CEO, LIV Golf). ■

Jacobs Law Group, P.C.



DAVID JACOBS

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The youngest firm on our list is hardly short on experience. Founded in late 2024 by David Jacobs in New York City, Jacobs Law Group, P.C. may be new, but it arrived fully formed, armed with decades of legal and industry expertise. Within months, Jacobs had assembled a team of 10, with longtime collaborators Matt Cuttler and Evan Levane stepping in as partners at the helm.

Jacobs has practiced law for nearly 20 years, representing artists in nearly every genre—usually from the very start of their careers. A musician himself for most of his life, Jacobs approaches his work with an ear-first mindset, acting as much like an A&R confidant as a legal advisor. “It’s always been about the artist and the music for me,” he says. “And if you do right by the artist and the music, everything else will follow.” Judging by the deals he’s closed, that ethos seems to be working—Jacobs has been behind some of the most competitive high-stakes negotiations in the business.

Among the firm’s marquee clients is global phenomenon Zach Bryan, whom Jacobs has represented since Bryan’s earliest days as a Navy serviceman uploading songs independently. In its first year alone, the firm helped close what’s believed to be the largest artist deal in the history of the record business for

JLG | JACOBS LAW GROUP P.C.
MUSIC & MEDIA LAWYERS



MATT CUTTLER



EVAN LEVANE

Bryan—a milestone not just for the firm but for the industry at large.

Working closely with Bryan's management and touring teams, the firm has also helped finalize his ambitious 2025 touring plans, which include stadium "residencies" in New York, London, and Dublin, culminating in the largest ticketed concert

in North American history this fall at Michigan's "Big House," UM Stadium. "The team we have all built around Zach—especially his management—is one of my proudest accomplishments; it's more like a family than anything else," says Jacobs.

The firm's client list reflects a deep and diverse lineup of "day-one" artists—from Latin crossover pop star Kali Uchis, satirical polymath Lil Dicky and genre-blurring icon Lil Nas X to established legends like Pusha-T, Clipse and Blood Orange, as well as rising stars such as Jessie Reyez, The War & Treaty and Aminé.

Managing Partner Cuttler—a fellow musician and Jacobs' law school classmate—works in all areas of the practice and brings his own slate of cutting-edge clients, including Ethel Cain, 100 gees, Animal Collective and Panda Bear.

"Matt and I were the two Williamsburg hipster musicians in Torts class," Jacobs laughs. The two bonded after Cuttler noticed Jacobs' laptop open to a Reason programming session during class—not lecture notes. "We've been in sync ever since. We both love music more than anything—and we're both always right," he jokes.

Jacobs and Cuttler's deep love for experimental and electronic music—not just as lawyers but as lifelong fans—has naturally led them to champion groundbreaking artists and producers in those spaces. Over the years, they've represented visionary talents like Sophie, Arca, Dylan Brady, Pop Wansel, Take a Daytrip, Gesaffelstein, Cashmere Cat, Bobby Krlic (The Haxan Cloak), Eartheater, Andrew Wyatt and Malay—a roster that reflects both their personal taste and professional dedication to pushing creative boundaries.

"Everything about my journey has been rooted in music and people," Jacobs says. "Doing the right thing for the right reason, with people I love, that's the dream, and I don't take a second of it for granted."

Partner Levane, a New York native with over 12 years of experience, rounds out the leadership team. He began his career at Universal Music Group working in the East Coast labels and has spent the past eight years practicing alongside Jacobs.

When asked what's next, Jacobs replies, "We're building the kind of firm we believe the modern entertainment landscape demands—one that truly reflects where artists and creatives are headed in 2025 and beyond. More importantly, we're fiercely focused on what's best for their art—never putting the business before that. We're all in, and we're beyond excited every day to create a culture we're proud of."

Jacobs is especially enthusiastic about the firm's next wave of rising talent—Cameron Whitcomb, Hanumankind, Joshua Sloane, Jensen McRae, Jonas Conner, Marlon Hoffstadt, VTSS, Tamino and others. "These are the stories just starting to unfold," says Jacobs. "We're lucky to be there from the beginning—wouldn't have it any other way." ■

LaPolt Law, P.C.



Dina LaPolt is the founder and owner of **LaPolt Law, P.C.**, one of the most influential entertainment law firms in the industry and the only firm of its stature owned by a sole female attorney. Based in Los Angeles, Dina is a powerhouse in entertainment and intellectual-property law, representing global superstars in the areas of music, film, television, fashion and beauty. Recently, she has significantly expanded the firm's presence in film and television, growing its roster of creators, producers and on-screen talent and further cementing LaPolt Law's reputation as a go-to firm for clients shaping culture across every screen.

She is renowned for her expertise in solving sophisticated legal and business issues relating to copyrights, trademarks, rights of publicity and a range of matters integral to the success of her clients. She has been

a powerful advocate for the music creator community, playing a key role in advancing landmark legislation such as the 2018 **Music Modernization Act**. She also helped champion efforts to protect creative expression from being used as evidence against individuals, in violation of their First Amendment rights—most notably through the passage of California's Decriminalizing Artistic Expression Act and the federal Restoring Artistic Protection (RAP) Act. In addition, along with other industry trade organizations, she is part of the Human Artistry Campaign to ensure the passage of the No Fakes Act, introduced in both the House and the Senate in April 2025 which, when passed, will establish the first-ever federal property right over an individual's voice and likeness, addressing the growing issue of non-consensual "deep fakes."

In addition to her legal and advocacy work, Dina has launched **LaPolt Media**, a new venture focused on bold storytelling and cultural commentary. Its first two projects include the release of her first motivational book, *Street Smart: Succeeding in a Man's World*, on October 6, 2025—a candid guide to navigating careers, confidence and negotiation in male-dominated industries—as well as the launch of *The Stiletto Room*, a new podcast featuring unfiltered conversations with creative visionaries, disruptors, and unapologetic originals about work, life, love and social justice.



Clockwise from top left: Kristin Wenning, Mariah Comer, Lindsay Arrington, LaPolt, Tom Dean, Dominic Chaklos

PARTNERS

Dominic Chaklos plays a central role in many of the firm's major catalog sales, bringing a dual-lens approach, with experience representing both buyers and sellers. This past year, he helped lead the team—alongside LaPolt and **Kristin Wenning**—on the landmark **Joan Jett** catalog partnership with **Seeker Music**, a deal that not only honors Jett's legacy but sets the stage for expanded releases and creative activations. Chaklos also continues to guide the careers of forward-moving clients like **Abby Anderson**, who returned to Stagecoach to play on the Mane stage in 2025, and **Two Friends**, fresh off their nationwide **HEATWAVE** tour and currently in the middle of their Las Vegas residency at the **Wynn**. He also works closely with **LSDREAM**, a standout in the bass-music-festival scene.

Mariah Comer became LaPolt Law's youngest partner at just 28 and now oversees some of the firm's top rap and hip-hop clients. She negotiated deals such as **Justine Skye**'s signing with **Warner Records** and led major partnerships for **YG** with **BMG** and **True Religion**. Comer also played a pivotal role in **Mary J. Blige**'s collaboration with



Dominic Chaklos



Mariah Comer



Lindsay Arrington



Kristin Wenning



Tom Dean

Giuseppe Zanotti for the “Mary Boot,” which sold out within 24 hours after its debut at the first ever **Strength of a Woman Festival and Summit** in NYC, in which Mariah was heavily involved, orchestrating with the MJB team. In collaboration with the firm’s head of film and TV, **Cierra Carter**, Comer is expanding LaPolt Law’s talent roster with clients like **Shannon Wallace** and **Tamera Kissen**. From brokering deals for legends like **Akon** to working with rising stars like **North West**, Comer brings a future-focused vision to her work. A proud first-generation college and law-school graduate, she mentors students of color and serves on the board of **We Are R.I.S.E.**, while also supporting the next generation through **Femme It Forward**’s Next Gem Femmes initiative.

Lindsay Arrington navigates the intersection of music, tech and brand strategy, handling a client roster that includes **deadmau5**, **Cardi B** and **Galantis**, to name a few. In the past year, she closed a \$55m catalog sale and joint venture deal for deadmau5 and his label **mau5trap** with **Create Music Group**, advised on the formation of Cardi B’s new fashion and beauty joint venture with **Revolve** and supported the release of Galantis’ fourth studio album with **Atlantic Records**. Lindsay regularly contributes to the firm’s policy work on AI and copyright, including filings to the U.S. Copyright Office, and educates rising creators through the **SONA Foundation’s** *Music and Money* series.

Kristin Wenning’s practice focuses on the firm’s legacy clients, songwriters, the protection of their works through advocacy and legislative action and supporting music-industry executives in the negotiation of their own deals. She folds her calm Midwest sensibilities into all her work and professional relationships. Wenning has led the negotiation and closing of multiple catalog and

asset sales totaling in the hundreds of millions of dollars. When she’s not in the trenches of an asset deal, she is diving into creator advocacy work with **Songwriters of North America (SONA)**, including spearheading the submission of papers to the United States Copyright Office’s call for responses and comments on a host of topics affecting music-industry creators.

Tom Dean oversees top clients such as **21 Savage**, **Offset**, **Tinashe** and **Jeff “Gitty” Gitelman**. More recently, Dean has been focused on growing the firm’s rock roster, signing acts like **Chiodos**, **Rain City Drive** and **Ricky Armellino (Ice Nine Kills)** to add to the firm’s already established stable of guitar heroes, including **Polyphia**, **Black Veil Brides**, **In This Moment** and **Sleeping With Sirens**. Notable deals that Dean recently has closed include (but are not limited to) signing Polyphia to a publishing deal with **Position Music**, **In This Moment** to a recording deal with **Better Noise** and Tinashe’s recording agreement with **Nice Life Recordings**.

ATTORNEYS

Cierra Carter, LaPolt Law’s head of film and television, advises and negotiates on behalf of actors, writers, directors, producers, athletes and influencers across film, television and new-media projects.

Daniela Jones, an associate attorney at LaPolt Law, negotiates and drafts a wide range of agreements for the firm’s music and social media influencer clients.

Manon Peri, an associate attorney, supports a range of LaPolt Law’s high-profile clients in music and entertainment, with a focus on intellectual-property protection and contract negotiation. ■

MYMAN GREENSPAN FOX ROSENBERG MOBASSER YOUNGER & LIGHT LLP

Eric Greenspan founded the music department of what had been originally created as a film-and-TV firm in 1987. His first recording artists were reggae groups Toots and the Maytals, Steel Pulse and Burning Spear. He was subsequently engaged by Red Hot Chili Peppers, who remain clients of the firm to this day. His foundational clients include Jewel, Jane's Addiction, Ice-T, Slash, Primus and Paul Tollett, and he considers himself extremely fortunate to have been involved with these acts since the infancies of their careers. Greenspan promoted The Grateful Dead while still an undergrad at Duke, and the firm has represented Dead & Company since its inception.

The firm's other principal partners are Jeffrey Light, the music department's first hire, whom Greenspan has hailed as "a game-changing lawyer"; fellow Duke Blue Devil Francois Mobasser, who joined the firm in 1999; Craig Marshall, who previously worked in business affairs at Priority, Capitol and Interscope; and Aaron Rosenberg, who joined the firm in the early 2000s soon after getting his Harvard Law degree. Rosenberg represents such mainstream stars as Ariana Grande, Tate McRae, Troye Sivan, Jennifer Lopez and John Legend.

Myman Greenspan's additional partners are Audrey Benoualid, Josh Karp, Tamara Milagros-Butler and Robert Minzner.

During the last year, milestones by the firm's clients have included Grande's star

turn in Wicked and her chart-topping album *eternal sunshine*; Dead & Company's 2024 and 2025 residencies at Las Vegas' Sphere; and McRae's chart-topping album, *So Close to What*; while Disturbed, Deftones, Khruangbin, McRae and Sivan have embarked on global tours.

The firm is putting the spotlight on its associates in this piece, for good reason.

"Our associates represent the next generation of brilliant, forward-thinking attorneys who make everything we do possible," state the partners. "Their dedication, creativity and ability to navigate an ever-evolving industry are essential to the success of our clients and the continued growth of the firm."



Top row from left: Eric Greenspan, Jeffrey Light, Francois Mobasser, Craig Marshall, Aaron Rosenberg; bottom row from left: Audrey Benoualid, Josh Karp, Tamara Milagros-Butler and Robert Minzner



Steven Arnst



Haley Golding



Jennifer Marr



Jacob Nober



Marisa Novak



Andrew Paster

ASSOCIATES

Steven Arnst

Since joining the firm in 2020, Arnst has played a key role across major deals for clients like Sivan, McRae, Dead & Company, Legend, FLETCHER and Amelia Moore. Over the past year he helped bring Sivan's SWEAT Tour to the Meta Horizon VR platform; handled brand activation deals for Sivan with Spotify, Dove and Hydroflask; negotiated Moore's recording agreement with Republic; and helped negotiate Dead & Company's record-breaking Sphere residencies in 2024 (grossing \$130m across 30 shows) and 2025. He's also worked on McRae's world tours and chart-topping album, Kate Hudson's music debut and various complex catalog sales totaling over \$550m in proceeds to the firm's clients. A strong advocate for LGBTQ+ inclusion, Arnst represents queer artists and execs, mentors young attorneys and proudly supports organizations like DTLA Proud and Equality California. He's also a HITS reader—but don't hold that against him.

Haley Golding

Golding joined the firm as an associate in 2018 after working as an attorney in business & legal affairs at Concord Music. She works with an eclectic roster of artists and creatives including Meghan Trainor, Erykah Badu, Tobe Nwigwe, Big Wild, Joyner Lucas, Common, Jason Derulo and Taylor Hill, among others. She recently finalized Big Wild's recording agreement with Giant Music, negotiated Trainor's endorsement deal with e.l.f. Cosmetics and played a key role in securing tour personnel and vendor agreements for Trainor's Timeless Tour. Golding also negotiated performance agreements for Badu at events like Billboard's "Women in Music," Camp Flog Gnaw and Afropunk. When she's not reviewing contracts, she's usually styling her dogs, Musso and Porkie, for their next holiday photo shoot.

Jennifer Marr

Marr is a Harvard Law grad turned music-industry power player, repping the next wave of global talent at the crossroads of dance music, Asian diaspora, creativity and digital culture. She represents artists including Alice Longyu Gao (KATSEYE "Gnarly" writer, Crunchyroll and Balenciaga performer), RayRay (Taiwan-based breakout electronic act signed to Dim Mak), Ike Schultz (mixer of Tinashe's Quantum Baby) and V-Ron (producer for Playboi Carti and UMI). Her clients have landed placements on Jentry Chau's Netflix series and Riot's VALORANT, and she supported Fashion Trust US's *Vogue*-featured 2025 gala. In support of firm clients, Marr has closed seven-figure distro deals, papered BABYMETAL's Capitol signing, negotiated Jamie xx and Erykah Badu's recent collab and cleared music for Big Wild, Tobe Nwigwe, Ciara and Common. She also runs point on legal for indie labels and publishers, advises digital-media stars like Sarah Bahbah and Giada De Laurentiis and leads brand campaigns across fashion, beauty and tech. This summer, she's launching the Legal Center for Dance Music—a free legal resource for creatives navigating the business. Outside the office, she's either behind the decks with a USB stick or at a mahjong table calling the next win—volume up, tiles down.

Jacob Nober

Nober has been instrumental in high-profile deals for top-tier artists, producers, songwriters and executives including McRae, Khruangbin, Sivan, Steph Jones, Connor Price, Bebe Rexha, INK, Legend, Big Sean, Common, Dead & Company and more. He played a key role in negotiating deals for McRae's 2025 global tour, Sivan's SWEAT Tour and Grammy Best New Artist nominee Khruangbin's 2024-25 global tour. Nober also helped negotiate agreements for Dead & Company's groundbreaking 2024 and 2025 Sphere residencies, overcoming complex legal negotiations involving one of the most technologically advanced live-music experiences to date. Additionally, he has advised on and handled publishing matters for Jones (including with respect to Jones' work on Sabrina Carpenter's "Espresso") as well as a wide range of agreements for INK (who worked on Beyoncé's COWBOY CARTER and Renaissance albums and Kendrick Lamar's GNX). Prior to entering law, he managed music, business development and strategy at Paris Hilton's 11:11 Media. A triple Bruin, he holds a JD, MBA, and BA from UCLA.

Marisa Novak

Since joining the firm, Novak has played a vital role in negotiating and drafting agreements for Grammy-winning and RIAA-certified multi-platinum recording artists, songwriters, producers, mixers and record labels including Grande, Coi Leray, Disturbed, Common, Jones, Lopez, S-Curve Records and LVRN. During the past year she has closed seven- and eight-figure recording and touring agreements and negotiated deals for Trainor's 2024 tour, Disturbed's 2025 world tour and Grande's eternal sunshine. Novak began her legal career in 2020 at another leading entertainment law firm after earning her J.D. from UCLA School of Law, where she specialized in media, entertainment and technology law and policy. Originally from San Diego, Novak grew up performing in musical theater productions and singing opera. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Classical Voice Performance from Oberlin Conservatory. These days, she works behind the scenes, using her sharp legal instincts to make sure her clients' art stays protected, valued and front and center in every deal.

Andrew Paster

After seven years at Myman Greenspan, Paster still can't decide whether he enjoys sending or receiving redlines more and, luckily, he doesn't have to. During his tenure, Paster has thoroughly enjoyed the work he does with power trios Primus and Khruangbin, producers Tyler Johnson and Jacquire King and the ever-evolving artistry of Jewel, all while further advancing the careers of its other clients, both established and developing. ■

ROTHENBERG, MOHR, BINDER LLP



From left: Paul Rothenberg, Jeremy Mohr and Josh Binder



ounding partners **Paul Rothenberg, Jeremy Mohr and Josh Binder** formed bicoastal firm **Rothenberg, Mohr, Binder LLP** in 2018. The firm has since expanded to become one of the biz's premier boutiques, with offices in Beverly Hills and New York, representing A-list talent, executives and entrepreneurs in music.

Binder's clients include longtime representation of hip-hop powerhouse **Top Dawg Entertainment**, home to SZA, DoeChii and Kendrick Lamar's award-winning catalog. He also added **BLACKPINK** superstar **LISA** to his roster, whose 2025 includes her debut album

via LLOUD/RCA and buzzworthy Coachella performance, as well as her acting debut in HBO Max's *The White Lotus*. Binder also reps EDM giants Marshmello, Alesso and Loud Luxury, Latin headliner Ivan Cornejo and rap star Gunna (alongside Mohr), as well as Shenseea, Southside, bbno\$ and rising stars Mark Ambor and Joey Valence and Brae.

Rothenberg represents top artists and producers, many with an eye on business building, including pop star/producer/songwriter **Charlie Puth** (currently performing for stadium crowds in China), mega-producer **Jon Bellion** (who just

released his first album in seven years, employing a new producer- and songwriter-friendly business model), R&B star **Jazmine Sullivan**, hip-hop artist **Logic** (who recently wrote and directed his first film, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival), mood-music label **Peace of Mind Studio** and affiliated independent label **Avant Garden Records**, longtime client and R&B star **Trey Songz**, hip-hop creative **FERG**, **blackbear**, **Skylar Grey**, Indonesian recording artist **Agnez Mo** (who was just cast as the female lead in the upcoming season of Amazon's hit series *Reacher*), Argentine

actor and singer **Maia Reficco** (*Pretty Little Liars*, *Hadestown* on Broadway) and others. He also advises music-adjacent talent and companies in the entertainment sphere, including boutique investment bank **Qatalyst Partners** and renowned fashion and celebrity photographer **Markus Klinko**.

Mohr counts R&B star **Kehlani**, Gunna, producer and executive **Hitmaka** and critically acclaimed artist and producer **Caroline Polachek** as clients, along with multifaceted Parkwood/Columbia duo **Chloe x Halle**, who continue to book major roles in TV and film.



Kevin Eskowitz



Lisa Lester



Joseph Duthie



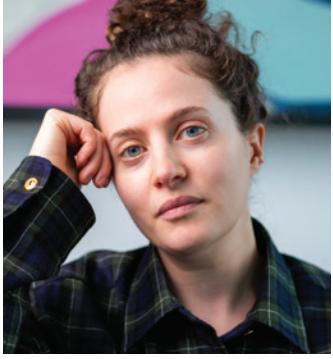
Amina McClain



Ana-Karine Bergin



Nelson Adams IV



Emily Long



Marc LeFebvre

Kevin Eskowitz

Eskowitz has been an attorney at the firm since its inception and was made partner in 2022. His clients include **Conan Gray**, who sold out his 2024 global arena tour after the release of his third album with **Republic** and DJ and producer **Gryffin**, who re-upped his Vegas residency with **Wynn** this year and inked a global distribution deal with **Atlantic Music Group**. Eskowitz also reps producer **Grant Boutin**, who wrote and produced eight songs on **Tate McRae's** *So Close to What*, including singles "Sports car" and "Revolving door," as well as artists **Rich Amiri**, **Grandson**, **Chezile**, **Mallrat** and **Petey USA**.

Lisa Lester

A former NCAA Division I tennis ace and an L.A.-based partner, Lester focuses on all aspects and areas of the music industry, where she represents recording artists, producers, mixers, songwriters, managers and executives. Her clients include rising DJ **BUNT**, who's coming off

a sold-out Mexico stadium show and just announced his largest tour to date; **Capitol/Blue Note** recording artists **DOMi & JD Beck**; **Fenix Flexin**; **HiTech**; **Rob Kinelski** (**Billie Eilish**, **KAROL G**); **Grant Averill** (**Bailey Zimmerman**, **Danna Paola**); and **Noah Goldstein** (**ROSALÍA**, **Frank Ocean**).

Joseph Duthie

Born and raised New Yorker Duthie, a senior associate, provides bicoastal support for the firm's clients, including advising on various transactional music matters, among them catalog sales, record deals, publishing ventures and endorsements. His clients include artist and producer **Kurtis Wells** and up-and-coming pop artist **Harvey Brittain**.

Amina McClain

McClain, a senior associate at RMB, handles various transactional talent matters, including touring, brand and recording agreements. She is licensed to practice law in the State of New York and is a past

board member of the **Cristo Rey Work Study Program**. McClain represents the artist **midwxst** alongside Mohr.

Ana-Karine Bergin

Having joined the firm last fall, the New York-based attorney works with the named partners on all their clients. Bergin, who brings a decade of experience from a fellow NYC entertainment boutique, represents recording artists **Ella Vos** and **Debbie Dawson**, as well as nonprofit music organization **Gender Amplified**. The **NYU** and **St. John's Law School** grad has enormous respect for artists, as she is a classically trained vocalist and pianist and spent time as an opera singer.

Nelson Adams IV

An associate at RMB, Adams focuses on a range of commercial transactions and IP matters for firm clients. With a background in sports and entertainment PR, Adams joined RMB in 2022 after stints at a major record company

and other law firms. He is a proud Miami native and an alumnus of NYU Law.

Emily Long

Prior to starting as an associate with RMB, Long worked at a boutique film law firm as well as one-on-one with musicians in L.A. and London on a wide range of legal and creative industry matters. These experiences continue to inform her approach to supporting clients for the firm.

Marc LeFebvre

LeFebvre, a transactional entertainment associate at the firm, is focused on the music industry and artist representation. A former indie musician, he understands firsthand the challenges artists face in their careers. After graduating cum laude from **New York Law School**, LeFebvre worked in-house at **Sony Music Entertainment** on top-line label matters before joining RMB, where he now supports a broad roster of artist clients. ■

ROSSI BALDIVIA KLEIN FINE & SPECTOR

Oswaldo Rossi, Founder and Managing Partner

Oswaldo Rossi is the founder and managing partner of **Rossi Baldivia Klein Fine & Spector**, a boutique entertainment law firm recognized for its deep expertise in the Latin-music industry. Rossi represents some of the most influential artists in the genre, including KAROL G, Danny Ocean, Peso Pluma, Juan Luis Guerra, Manuel Turizo, Rauw Alejandro (in collaboration with José Torres), Elena Rose, Bb trickz, MAG, Sky Rompiendo, Mr. Nais Gai, Saiko, Kapo, Chris Jedi, Gaby Music and Edgardo Nuñez. His client roster also includes leading music companies such as Rimas Entertainment, Double P Records, Rancho Humilde and La Industria Inc., as well as prominent executives like Noah Assad, George Prajin, Jimmy Humilde and Nir Seroussi.

Rossi has negotiated a wide range of significant transactions, including catalog sales (**Rich Music**, **Sky Rompiendo**), tour agreements (Rauw Alejandro's *Cosa Nuestra Tour* with Live Nation), distribution deals (Bb trickz with **Columbia Records**), joint ventures (Rancho Humilde with Live Nation) and equity purchases (**Dale Play** acquisition by Rimas). Rossi holds board positions at both Rimas Entertainment and Double P Records and is certified as a player agent by the **Major League Baseball Players Association**.



John R. Baldivia, Partner

Baldivia has been promoted to name partner at the firm. He recently negotiated a wide variety of contracts for major-label recording artists, including a major merchandising deal with **Bravado** for KAROL G, a sold-out stadium tour with **Live Nation** in support of *Mañana Será Bonito*, sponsorship deals with **Fortnite** and **FC Barcelona** and clearance work for her acclaimed 2024 albums *Mañana Será Bonito* and *Mañana Será Bonito (Bichota Season)*, as well as her sixth studio album, *Tropicoqueta*. Baldivia also negotiated Peso Pluma's **Amazon** merchandising agreement, Danny Ocean's **Toyota** tour sponsorship and MAG's extensive producer agreement for Bad Bunny's *DeBi TiRAR MÁS FOTOS*, as well as providing album-clearance work for **Tito Double P (Incómodo)**, Rauw Alejandro (*Cosa Nuestra*) and Danny Ocean (*venequia*, *REFLEXA*), among others. He has additionally provided a wide range of legal support for Double P Records, Rancho Humilde and **Rich Music**.



Pamela L. Klein



Gary Fine



Joshua Spector

Pamela L. Klein, Partner

Klein, who was recently promoted to name partner at RBKFS, has a broad-based practice spanning 30 years in the music and entertainment industries. Her clients include KAROL G, for whom she negotiated the Colombian superstar's Experience with Airbnb, her worldwide co-branding agreement with Diesel for a capsule collection, her deal with Netflix for the documentary *Mañana Fue Bonito*, her Coke Studio worldwide collaboration agreement and collaborations for her own Bratz doll (including a national TV ad), PUBG, Crocs and her distribution agreement with Interscope. Klein also represented Grammy-winning producer-songwriter Rodney "Darkchild" Jerkins in his sale of select producer-royalty income streams to HarbourView Equity Partners.

Gary Fine, Partner

Fine was promoted to name partner at RBKFS. His recent deals include Kapo's recording agreement with Sony Music U.S. Latin, Elias De Leon and White Lion's distribution agreement with Rimas Entertainment, La Industria, Inc.'s distribution deal with Sony Music U.S. Latin, Rich Music's catalog sale to Grand Central Music and Oscar Ortiz's recording agreement with Sony Music U.S. Latin. In

addition to his full-time practice, Fine is in his 21st year as an adjunct law professor at Southwestern Law School, where he teaches the course "Music Industry Contracts."

Joshua Spector, Partner

Spector was promoted to name partner at RBKFS and was renewed for a third five-year term as a board-certified business litigator in Florida. Recognized as a top lawyer in Miami, Spector has defended firm clients in a variety of federal litigation matters including claims of copyright infringement and defamation, while also providing brand enforcement for top-selling musical artists. He also prosecuted and amicably resolved a set of lawsuits for a top social-media influencer involving publicity rights and ownership interests relating to a multimillion-dollar entertainment venture. In addition to his entertainment-law duties, Josh became a qualified FIFA agent in 2024.

Camille Mena, Associate Attorney

Mena, who recently joined RBKFS as an associate, works on entertainment transactions with touring, licensing and IP agreements across film, television and music. Prior to joining the firm, she worked in business affairs at NBCUniversal, where she negotiated and drafted agreements for scripted television projects and live events.

Diego Quintero Cuello, Foreign Attorney

Quintero Cuello recently handled recording agreements with Sony Music U.S. Latin on behalf of clients Kapo and Saiko, and he recently signed ULI, one of the top developing producers in Spain and the main producer of Saiko's last two albums. He also negotiated Danny Ocean's deal with Coke for the *Babylon Club* album activation.

Mya Barahona, Foreign Attorney

Barahona, a new team member at RBKFS, supports the firm's entertainment practice with a focus on dealmaking in the music industry, both in the U.S. and internationally. She plays a key role in supporting the firm's attorneys drafting and negotiating a wide range of music-related agreements.

Clemente Piña, Of Counsel

Piña, a valuable member of RBKFS, is licensed to practice law in Mexico and was formerly the head of business affairs for EMI Music Mexico. He has negotiated multiple music publishing and administration agreements on behalf of BMG Rights Management, and he recently negotiated the new distribution agreements for Carlos Rivera and Sin Bandera with Sony Music Mexico.■



Camille Mena



Diego Quintero Cuello



Mya Barahona



Clemente Piña

SINGH, SINGH & TRAUBEN LLP



From left:
Christopher R. Navarro,
Simran A. Singh and
Michael A. Trauben

ST

Founded in 2010, **Singh, Singh & Trauben, LLP (SST)** has earned a reputation as a premier boutique law firm specializing in entertainment and business affairs. Based in Beverly Hills, SST provides comprehensive legal counsel across music, film, television and digital media, representing a dynamic roster that includes award-winning artists, estates, producers, labels and content creators.

SST's transactional practice is deeply embedded in the fabric of the global entertainment industry. The firm regularly advises on high-value catalog sales, publishing and recording agreements, global distribution and licensing deals and brand partnerships. Its clientele includes cultural icons such as **Daddy Yankee, Missy Elliott, Ozuna, Mon Laferte and Farruko's Carbon Fiber Music**, as well as breakout stars across the *música Mexicana* and Latin urban movements including **Eslabón Armado, Grupo Firme, Luis R. Conríquez, Tony Aguirre, Óscar Maydon, Jhayco, Dímelo Flow, DannyLux, De La Rose and Omar Courtz**.

SST's equally distinguished litigation team is known for handling some of the most consequential disputes in entertainment today. The firm secured the largest defamation jury verdict in Los Angeles County in 2023 and leads the high-profile wrongful death lawsuit on behalf of the estate of **Drakeo the Ruler**. SST also manages complex intellectual property and media-rights disputes across international jurisdictions, including Switzerland, the European Union and Mexico. SST has successfully defended clients in precedent-setting cases involving fair use, free speech, reputational harm and rights of publicity—delivering critical wins that safeguard creative expression and editorial independence.

In addition to its legal work, SST's partners are actively involved in content production. Recent projects include the Netflix documentary *Selena y Los Dinos* (Sundance 2025 winner), *May December* (Netflix) and *The Assessment* (TIFF 2024), showcasing the firm's hands-on role in helping creators bring culturally significant stories to life.

With a mission rooted in empowering artists and protecting creative legacies, SST continues to deliver strategic, forward-thinking legal solutions that shape the evolving landscape of entertainment.



Daljinder Singh



Thomas K. Richards



Justin R. Trauben



Nicholas E. Huelster

Simran A. Singh

As managing partner, Singh represents a broad range of influential artists, estates and entertainment companies across major global transactions. Recent deal highlights include the *Selena y Los Dinos* documentary acquired by Netflix (Sundance 2025 winner), Daddy Yankee's reggaeton docuseries for Peacock (2024) and *Mon Laferte, te amo* for Netflix (2024). Singh also closed Ozuna's publishing catalog sale to **Kobalt/KMR Holdings** and negotiated his new **Sony Music Latin** deal. Additional recent deals include Missy Elliott's **Out of This World** tour, new agreements for Carbon Fiber, **FlooyMenor (UnitedMasters)**, Grupo Firme (**Virgin**) and Mon Laferte (**Sony, Warner Chappell**). His roster also includes Óscar Maydon, Aldo Trujillo and **GodKing Records**, The Game, Konshens, Tamar Braxton, Bruses (RCA) and **DIAM Music**, the label of the late Diego Verdaguer and Amanda Miguel. Singh also represents **Tha Dream Team**, the production company behind an upcoming animated feature starring Snoop Dogg and Idris Elba. Known for operating at the intersection of music, film, TV and culture, Singh brings a mission-driven approach to every deal—championing artists, protecting legacy and building platforms that shape the future.

Michael A. Trauben

One of the firm's litigation partners, Trauben represents a wide range of artists, filmmakers, entrepreneurs and corporations navigating an array of complex disputes spanning entertainment, business, media and intellectual

property law. Trauben is an experienced trial lawyer who was co-counsel in an action securing one of the top 100 verdicts in Los Angeles County in 2023, which was recognized as the No. 1 verdict in the category of defamation. In both consistently safeguarding clients' constitutional rights of free speech and expression while successfully advancing claims seeking redress for reputational harm, Trauben has successfully prevailed on numerous anti-SLAPP motions, a cornerstone of the firm's practice. He also successfully defeated an alleged songwriter's claims in a high-profile royalty dispute over Aaliyah's hit song "Heartbroken" and achieved the first favorable fair use defense victory with the Copyright Claims Board. Trauben also serves as a mediator for **SoundExchange**, routinely mediating featured-artist royalties disputes in furtherance of resolving overlapping featured performer claims, further solidifying his influence in shaping the legal landscape for creative expression.

Christopher R. Navarro

Navarro continues to represent música Mexicana leaders **K Music** (previously known as **Kartel Music**), the label home to Luis R. Conriquez and Tony Aguirre and the force that helmed global smash "Ella Baila Sola," Eslabon Armado. Navarro's diverse client roster also includes **N&E Entertainment** (home to global artist Jhayco and rising star De La Rose); super-producer and hitmaker Dímelo Flow; Gen Z sad sierreño phenomenon DannyLux; and **OD Entertainment** (with superstar Omar Courtz). As a partner at the firm, Navarro helps steer the firm's rapidly growing

transactional practice, advising clients across every corner of the music industry.

Daljinder Singh

One of the firm's litigation partners, Dal specializes in negligence and related matters while also providing general corporate counsel to high-net-worth businesses across diverse industries. He routinely litigates against some of the largest insurance companies in the nation in addition to California's most prominent defense firms. With extensive courtroom experience, Dal recognizes the indispensable role of jury trials in securing justice for those harmed by the negligence of others.

Thomas K. Richards

Richards, an experienced trial lawyer practicing in California and in New York City, obtained the largest jury verdict in Los Angeles County in 2023 for a defamation case and is currently handling multiple cases with damages of over \$100m, including as the lead trial attorney in the wrongful death case related to the tragic murder of Drakeo the Ruler, with Richards handling the case on behalf of Drakeo's estate and his mother. Richards also handles the financing of independent motion pictures, including as an executive producer of *May December* (featuring Natalie Portman, Julianne Moore and Charles Melton), which was nominated for the **Golden Globes** in four categories and for an **Oscar** for Best Screenplay, and executive producing credits in 2024 for *The Assessment* (featuring Elizabeth

Olsen, Alicia Vikander and Himesh Patel) and 2025 for *100 Nights of HERO* (Emma Corrin, Felicity Jones).

Justin R. Trauben

As a litigator at the firm, Trauben represents artists, creatives and companies in high-profile disputes at the intersection of entertainment, intellectual property and personal rights. He was part of the trial team that secured one of the top 100 verdicts in Los Angeles County in 2023 in *Lopez v. Lopez*, recognized as the No. 1 verdict for reputational harm. Trauben also successfully defended filmmaker **Jonathan Bolerjack** against Stan Lee's former bodyguard, defeating an attempt to silence Bolerjack's documentary on Lee's final years by prevailing on an anti-SLAPP motion that safeguarded his client's speech rights. He is currently part of the team representing the estate of Drakeo the Ruler in a high-profile wrongful death lawsuit. Trauben's work continues to help shape the battleground where free speech, safety and celebrity collide.

Nicholas E. Huelster

A senior associate at the firm, Huelster focuses on complex music and entertainment transactions across recording, music publishing, touring, brand partnerships and intellectual property acquisitions. Together with the firm's partners, he has represented major artists such as Missy Elliott, Ozuna and Daddy Yankee in high-profile deals spanning catalog sales, publishing and recording agreements, endorsement campaigns and touring agreements. Huelster's recent deal highlights include Missy Elliott's 2024 Out of This World tour agreement, asset purchase agreement for the sale of a substantial ownership interest in Sean Paul's hit song "Temperature" and asset purchase agreement for the sale of Ozuna's publishing catalog to Kobalt/KMR Holdings.■

The Zia Firm, PLLC



Having recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, The Zia Firm, PLLC has swiftly established itself as one of the preeminent entertainment law firms in the industry. Founded in 2015 by Adam Zia, the firm has grown to include offices in New York, Los Angeles and Miami. Its adept navigation of the evolving music business and reputation for innovative deal-making have made The Zia Firm a trusted ally for artists seeking to thrive in today's dynamic environment. With a client roster that spans chart-topping performers, emerging talent, influential producers and songwriters, independent labels and production companies and top executives, the firm delivers comprehensive legal services ranging from contract negotiations and intellectual property protection to strategic career counsel.



Adam Zia

Adam Zia is the founding partner of The Zia Firm and is one of the leading entertainment attorneys in the talent representation business. Under his leadership, The Zia Firm has grown from a startup solo practice to a tri-coastal team of top attorneys. Zia's client roster boasts a diverse range of groundbreaking artists spanning all genres, including longtime client and the most-streamed African artist of all-time, hip-hop superstar **French Montana**; multifaceted chart-topper **MGK**; and breakout artist **Tommy Richman**. Zia spearheaded the negotiations of several of this past year's biggest new artist signings, including Gelo's record-setting deal with **Def Jam**, **Prosper Entertainment**'s venture with **Warner Records** for **Maddox Batson**, **IT Entertainment**'s joint venture with **Republic Records** for **Domenic Innarella**, rock band **Riff Wood**'s recording deal with **Giant Music** and **Elizabeth Nichols**' recording deal with **Pulse Records**.

Zia has also facilitated and negotiated several large catalog deals for publishing assets, master recording rights and other income streams. His roster includes **Starrah**, **Rich the Kid**, **Cash Cobain**, **Ghostface Killah**, **Trippie Redd**, **Bia**, **070Shake**, **Lil Tjay**, **Sean Cook**, **Bayker Blankenship**, **Belly Gang**, **Kushington** and supermodel **Anok**, as well as many of the industry's elite executives.



Nate Kuo, a partner at The Zia Firm, represents artists and creative professionals throughout the world. His clientele—encompassing independent and established musicians, electronic music's foremost global DJs and producers, celebrity brand influencers and models, renowned visual artists and designers, culture-shaping downtown publications and writers, global creative agencies, media/tech companies and digital-content creators—includes **Mochakk**, **Chloe Caillet**, **Coucou Chloe** and music-tech platform **Bandsintown**.



Marc Geylman and Nate Kuo

This past year, Kuo led the complex navigation of clearing **Travis Scott's** **Grammy**-nominated album **UTOPIA**. He is heavily involved in downtown music and art scenes throughout the world as both a lawyer and participant. Kuo began his legal career in the corporate-finance practices of the global law firms of **Clifford Chance US LLP** and **Alston & Bird LLP** in New York.

Marc Geylman is the managing partner at The Zia Firm, with a client roster that includes renowned talent in music, fashion, film, television, art and digital media. Among them are tastemaker label and brand **Soulection** and independent powerhouse rock band **VOILA**. Geylman's role at the firm includes directing its operations, negotiating high-level transactions and spearheading firm growth, including its expansion into emerging technologies such as AI, Web3/blockchain and diverse tech startups. His hybrid expertise in legal matters, corporate affairs and cutting-edge technologies allows him to serve the needs of creatives and businesses alike. Respected entities in entertainment, ranging from record labels, executives, songwriters, bands, DJs and producers to music-tech companies, marketing agencies, service providers and publishers have trusted Geylman to navigate the legal complexities surrounding their business.

Daniel Weiss is of counsel to The Zia Firm-New York. Prior to joining the firm, Weiss worked at several prominent entertainment law firms, managed critically acclaimed recording artists and held a position at **Live Nation**, where he handled agreements for performances at venues such as **Madison Square Garden**, **Central Park SummerStage** and **Irving Plaza**. His combined love of music and understanding of the business world have put him in position to now represent numerous **Grammy**-winning producers, mixers, songwriters and artists.

Michael Busiashvili is an associate attorney at The Zia Firm-New York, where he provides transactional and commercial legal services to creatives and brands in the entertainment and fashion spaces. Busiashvili runs point on the day-to-day representation of Tommy Richman and Anok. Prior to joining the firm, he clerked for **Judge Saliann Scarpulla** in the Commercial Division, New York City. Busiashvili is also the co-founder of **OX Fine Jewelry**, a luxury diamond-jewelry concept launched in 2022.

Shannon Rovzar, an associate at The Zia Firm-Miami, assists with drafting and negotiating a wide range of matters for the firm's clients. She grew up in Mexico City and, in law school, focused her curriculum on Spanish contract drafting. Rovzar has been an integral part in the firm's growth in the representation of Latin talent, which includes **AP Global Music** and **Play-N-Skillz**. She is interested in the intersection of Ibero-American art in the Anglo market and the exposure of such artists in the global mainstream.

Rachel Feigelson, an associate at The Zia Firm-New York, assists with drafting and negotiating a wide range of matters for the firm's clients. She is a barred attorney in both New York and California. At **Southwestern Law School**, Feigelson won first place in her law school's negotiation competition, was a Dean's Merit Scholar and received an award of excellence in Trademark Law. She leads the day-to-day representation of firm clients French Montana, MGK and Rich the Kid. ■



Daniel Weiss



Michael Busiashvili



Shannon Rovzar



Rachel Feigelson