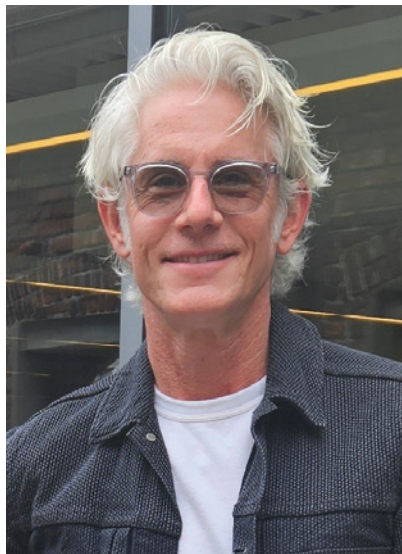


DAVIS SHAPIRO LEWIT GRABEL



Steve Shapiro



Peter Lewit



Richard Grabel

Over 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 **Torrey 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**, **Claire**, **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 **DSL**.

Bruce Scavuzzo

A partner at the firm, Scavuzzo is affectionately known at **DSL** 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 **Gabel**, 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. ■