



Bonnie E. Eskenazi

Partner

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For the past 30 years, Bonnie Eskenazi has regularly handled some of Hollywood's most high profile and landmark entertainment disputes for some of the industry's leading performers, directors, writers, producers, rights holders, studios and talent agents.

In 2017, Bonnie worked with Women in Film to create and launch its sexual harassment help line and a pro-bono legal aid service.

Recently recognized by *Variety* as one of its "Women of Impact" within the Entertainment Industry, and by *The Recorder* as California's Entertainment Lawyer of the Year, Bonnie represents plaintiffs and defendants in a variety of litigation matters, primarily focusing on entertainment disputes over issues such as royalties and profit participations, copyright ownership, idea theft, contracts, defamation, invasion of privacy, merchandise and licensing, music distribution, and new technology.

Bonnie is recognized by *The Hollywood Reporter* on its list of "Power Lawyers." She is named by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* as one of "California's Top 75 Women Litigators," by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* as "The Best of the Bar," by *Los Angeles Magazine* as a "Super Lawyer" and by *Chambers & Partners* as one of America's leading media and entertainment lawyers. Bonnie also carries the highest peer-review rating, "AV," by Martindale-Hubbell.

In addition to her accomplishments as a trial lawyer and civil litigator, Bonnie also handles certain entertainment transactional work within the entertainment industry.

Bonnie is a member of Greenberg Glusker's management committee, and is a guest lecturer at Stanford and Harvard Law Schools.

Professional Affiliations

- Member, Stanford Law School Board of Visitors, 2002-2005
- Participant, Trial Attorney Project, where Ms. Eskenazi tried several cases for the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office
- Law Clerk, the Honorable Donald B. King, First District Court of Appeal, 1985 to 1986

- Member, Intellectual Property and Litigation sections, American Bar Association

Charitable & Civic Involvement

- Member, Board of Directors, [Women in Film](#) (2018- present)
- Member, Board of Directors, *The Festival of New American Musicals*, 2006- present

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

United States Supreme Court

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

United States District Courts for the Northern and Central Districts

Education

- Stanford University School of Law (J.D., 1985)
- University of Virginia (B.A., *with highest distinction*, 1982)
 - Phi Beta Kappa

Entertainment Experience

Ms. Eskenazi is one of only a handful of women trial lawyers in Los Angeles whose practice focuses on entertainment industry disputes. She has handled disputes involving royalty disputes, defamation, first amendment, breach of contract, tort, fraud, copyright infringement, trademark, trade secret and talent agency/personal management claims to name a few.

Representative Entertainment Litigation Matters:

- Estate of J.R.R. Tolkien v. New Line Cinema: Successfully represented the Estate of J.R.R. Tolkien in a profit participation action against New Line Cinema; the Estate was seeking a damage award of at least \$150 million and had also requested that the Court declare New Line's rights terminated. The matter settled
- Marvel Entertainment: Currently represents Marvel Entertainment in various profit participation matters as well as other general litigation
- Jeffrey Katzenberg v. The Walt Disney Co.: Member of the team that successfully represented Jeffrey Katzenberg in his action to obtain profit participation against the Walt Disney Company
- Jesse James Hollywood v. Universal Studios/Sidney Kimmel Entertainment: Successfully defeated accused murderer Hollywood's request for a preliminary injunction seeking to prevent the distribution of

the 2007 feature film "*Alpha Dog*." Ms. Eskenazi has been invited to speak about this case at an upcoming CEB seminar on "*Hot Legal Issues in Current Entertainment Litigation*"

- *Bagdasarian Productions v. Universal Studios*: Successfully obtained the return of the "Alvin & The Chipmunks" characters to the original owners from a major motion picture studio
- *Copyright Termination Cases*: Has successfully defended Classic Media and Harvey Entertainment against various statutory termination claims by the heirs of certain authors attempting to recapture copyrights in several different fictional characters
- *Berry Gordy v. Sidney Kimmel Entertainment*: Currently defending independent motion picture production company against a claim of defamation in connection with the film, "Talk to Me"
- *Grandway Holdings v. Sony Entertainment*: Represented private investors in SET India (a television network that operates in India and Singapore) against Sony Entertainment, their joint venture partner
- *Kounellis v. Christmas*: Successfully obtained the return of artwork and fees owed to world renowned artist Jannis Kounellis in a dispute with Los Angeles art gallery
- *Hans Zimmer*: Has handled numerous matters for the composer concerning general business, copyright and other issues relating to the music and film industries
- *Clark v. Walt Disney Co.*: Successfully defended the creators of "Baby Einstein" against breach of contract claims asserted by Disney
- *Daily Variety (Marvel Entertainment v. Sony Pictures Entertainment)*: Successfully represented various press organizations asserting their First Amendment right to attend and report on the legal dispute over the "Spiderman" character
- *David Stanley v. Scott Stone*: Successfully represented a partner in Stone Stanley Entertainment, a television production company which produced such shows as "The Mole," "The Man Show," and "Shop Til You Drop," in an action to recover damages and for dissolution
- *Feiner v. Pacific Title Co.*: Successfully represented former CEO in an employment dispute against one of the oldest post-production companies in Hollywood; in addition to allegations of breach of contract and wrongful termination, plaintiff also sought recovery for the company's destruction of his computer files
- *DIC Entertainment v. Speed Racer Enterprises*: Successfully represented the children's animation company in an action concerning its intellectual property rights in the "Speed Racer" property
- *The Harvey Entertainment Co. v. Franklin-Waterman, et al*: Won a month-long jury trial in downtown Los Angeles on behalf of an entertainment company which owns a large stable of cartoon characters
- *Imagine Entertainment v. Mike Myers*: Quickly and successfully resolved a claim by Imagine Entertainment and its partners, Brian Grazer and Ron Howard, against comedian Mike Myers; Myers sought to renege on his commitment to write and star in a motion picture to be produced by Imagine
- *DreamWorks Animation LLC v. Rick Littleton*: Successfully prosecuted a breach of contract, fraud and defamation action involving the purchase by DreamWorks of the horse that served as the model for DreamWorks' award-winning animated feature, "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron"
- *Jerome O'Connor v. DreamWorks Films, L.L.C.*: Won summary judgment for DreamWorks against a producer who brought an action for breach of contract and fraud

- *Greg Brown v. The Harvey Entertainment Co.*: Successfully defended an entertainment company in federal court against a trademark/unfair competition action; obtained a dismissal of the action within six months of the filing, and was awarded \$70,000 in attorneys' fees against the plaintiff, which was affirmed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal
- *Stephen Slesinger Inc. v. The Walt Disney Co.*: Represented the owners of rights in Winnie The Pooh in their action against Disney for fraud and breach of contract relating to Disney's obligation to pay royalties
- *Florence Griffith Joyner v. Gordon Baskin*: Represented a world famous Olympic athlete in a case before the California Labor Commissioner to terminate her obligations and recover commissions paid to her former personal manager
- *Davidson & Associates v. Pearson*: Successfully defended a publicly held international entertainment conglomerate against a \$30 million claim for misappropriation of trade secrets; the case was dismissed within nine months of filing and the trial court awarded \$300,000 in attorneys' fees to the defendant
- *Steven J. Wolfe, et al. v. James Moll, et al.*: Successfully defended a writer/director against a claim that he failed to honor an oral agreement to transfer the copyright in a motion picture script to a producer; prior to the first deposition being taken, plaintiffs agreed to dismiss the entire action without any payment whatsoever
- *The Walt Disney Co. v. Max Howard*: Defeated a motion for temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction on behalf of an entertainment industry executive who left one motion picture studio to head up a division of another motion picture studio
- *Elle Macpherson v. Lawrence Young*: Successfully represented a famous super model in a defamation action against an attorney who made false statements to the media regarding the circumstances of his client's burglary and attempted extortion against the model; worked with the Los Angeles District Attorney's office on behalf of the super model/crime victim to obtain a guilty plea from the criminal defendant and the maximum sentence allowable under the law; obtained a public retraction and apology from the attorney who made the defamatory remarks
- *Geffen Records v. Don Henley*: Successfully represented a major record company against a world renowned, Grammy-winning artist who refused to deliver any further record albums based on his claim that he was released from his contract after seven years
- *Art Buchwald v. Paramount Pictures*: Was a member of the team that represented Paramount in its appeal of the Art Buchwald decision which held the net profit definition to be unconscionable
- *Estate of Jim Garrison v. Paramount Pictures*: Defended Paramount against the Jim Garrison antitrust class action which attacked the studios' net profit definition; the Court gave the studio defendants a total victory when it dismissed the class action
- *Batjac Productions, Inc. v. GoodTimes Home Video Corp.*: Represented a film production company in its appellate efforts to restore copyright protection to a classic film which inadvertently lost its copyright protection

Representative Entertainment Transactional Matters: Ms. Eskenazi's practice is unusual in that she also represents various entertainment clients in their transactional endeavors.

- Renée Fleming: As Ms. Fleming is the most well-known opera star today, she is highly sought after for endorsement agreements; Ms. Eskenazi has negotiated several endorsement agreements on behalf of Ms. Fleming, including fragrances, luxury real estate developments and high-end luxury gift items
- Joshua Bell: Negotiated several endorsement agreements for the internationally renowned concert violinist
- DIC Entertainment: Member of the team that negotiated client's repurchase of an animation company from The Walt Disney Co.
- The Harvey Entertainment Co.: Acted in the capacity of outside general counsel for a publicly-traded entertainment company which owned over 100 animated characters; devised and implemented business strategies to protect the company's copyright and trademark rights
- Tomb Raider: Acted as outside production counsel for a theatrical motion picture; successfully resolved legal disputes that arose during production

Media

April 29, 2019

Chambers USA 2019 Recognizes Greenberg Glusker's Entertainment Litigation, Bankruptcy/Restructuring, Real Estate and Environment Practices
Chambers USA

January 31, 2019

24 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Selected to 2019 Southern California Super Lawyers

January 10, 2019

Coffee Co. Must Pay \$2.4M To Marley Family In TM Fight
Law360

January 10, 2019

9th Circuit Panel Rules Coffee Company Infringed Bob Marley Trademark
Courthouse News Service

September 16, 2018

Bonnie Eskenazi finds her passion in entertainment law and playing a role in MeToo movement
Los Angeles Times

August 15, 2018

26 Greenberg Glusker attorneys named to 2019 Best Lawyers® list

June 5, 2018

Amy Baer Elected New President Of Women In Film; Board Members Added
Deadline

May 1, 2018

**Chambers USA 2018 Recognizes Greenberg Glusker's Entertainment Litigation,
Bankruptcy/Restructuring and Real Estate Practices**

Chambers USA

April 4, 2018

Greenberg Glusker Partners Named to THR's Power Lawyers 2018

Greenberg Glusker Press Release

March 21, 2018

Firms try to move 'inclusion riders' past the concept stage

Los Angeles Daily Journal

March 12, 2018

Cathy Schulman: How Male-Dominated Hollywood Contributes To Harassment Culture

Epeak World News

November 10, 2017

Women in Film Launching Sexual Harassment Help Line, Legal Aid Service

Variety

August 25, 2017

Hollywood Docket: Showtime Wins Bid to Pre-empt Mayweather-McGregor Fight Piracy

The Hollywood Reporter

June 13, 2017

'Friday the 13th' Producer Points to Writers' Union Membership in Bid to Retain Franchise Rights

The Hollywood Reporter

May 31, 2017

Marley Family Wins \$2.4M In Trademark Infringement Case

Law360

May 26, 2017

Chambers USA 2017 Ranks Greenberg Glusker's Entertainment Litigation and Environmental Practices

Greenberg Glusker Press Release

May 1, 2017

Chambers USA 2017 Ranks Greenberg Glusker's Entertainment Litigation and Environmental Practices

January 20, 2017

The Two Epiphanies of Bonnie Eskenazi

Super Lawyers

September 30, 2016

Hollywood Celebs Cashing in on the Pot Business Despite Legal Risks

The Hollywood Reporter

June 10, 2016

Chambers USA 2016 Rankings Recognizes Greenberg Glusker and Six Partners

Chambers

February 28, 2016

Oscars Institutional Racism Needs to End Today, Not in Four Years

TheStreet

January 22, 2016

23 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Named to Super Lawyers 2016

Super Lawyers

October 28, 2015

Breaking the cycle of Hollywood exclusion

Inside Counsel

June 1, 2015

Announcement: Bonnie Eskenazi Named One of the Top 75 Outstanding Women Lawyers in USA

Greenberg Glusker Press Release

May 26, 2015

California Powerhouse: Greenberg Glusker

Law360

May 1, 2015

ACLU Pushes for Probe of Alleged Bias Against Women in Hollywood

Bloomberg

April 14, 2015

Bonnie Eskenazi and Pierce O'Donnell Named to Variety's 2015 Legal Impact Report

Variety

March 31, 2015

Greenberg Glusker's Eskenazi negotiates Marley Natural deal

Inside Counsel

January 1, 2015

Chambers USA 2015 Ranks Greenberg Glusker's Entertainment Litigation and Environmental Practices

Greenberg Glusker Press Release

June 19, 2014

Chambers USA 2014 Ranks Greenberg Glusker's Entertainment Litigation and Environmental Practices

Greenberg Glusker Press Release

April 30, 2014

Bert Fields, Bonnie Eskenazi and Aaron Moss Named to The Hollywood Reporter's Power Lawyers List for 2014

Greenberg Glusker Press Release

April 16, 2014

Aaron Moss Named to Variety's Legal Impact Report for 2014

Greenberg Glusker Press Release

January 15, 2014

Greenberg Glusker Names Bob Baradaran as Managing Partner

Greenberg Glusker Press Release

September 1, 2009

The Hobbit Films Litigation

July 1, 2009

Hobbit Films Litigation

June 5, 2009

Tolkien Lawsuit Against New Line Ordered to Jury

Bloomberg

June 3, 2009

Judge sends 'Rings' case to jury

Variety

February 12, 2008

Tolkien trust sues studio over 'Rings'

Los Angeles Times

Accolades

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Named by [Chambers USA](#) as a Leading Lawyer in the practice of Entertainment and Media: Litigation, 2019

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Named by [Chambers USA](#) as a Leading Lawyer in the practice of Entertainment and Media: Litigation, 2018

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Listed, Most Influential Women Attorneys, Los Angeles Business Journal, April 2018

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Listed, "[Legal Impact Honoree](#)," Variety, April 2018

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Listed, "[Power Lawyers](#)," The Hollywood Reporter, April 2018

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Named by [Chambers USA](#), as a Leading Lawyer in the practice of Entertainment and Media Litigation, 2017

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[Chambers USA 2017 Ranks Greenberg Glusker's Entertainment Litigation and Environmental Practices »](#)

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Listed, Los Angeles Business Journal's Most Influential Women Lawyers in Los Angeles, April 2017

- Listed, Southern California Super Lawyers, 2004-2017

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Named by [Chambers USA](#), as a Leading Lawyer in the practice of Entertainment and Media Litigation, 2016

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[23 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Named to Super Lawyers 2016 »](#)

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Listed, Top Women Lawyers, *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, 2016

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Named by *The Hollywood Reporter* as one of the Entertainment Industry's 100 "[Power Lawyers](#)," 2008 -2014

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Named by [Chambers USA](#) as a Leading Individual in the practice of Media and Entertainment Litigation, 2007-2013

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[Chambers USA 2013 Ranks Greenberg Glusker's Media and Entertainment Litigation and Environmental Practices »](#)

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Listed by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* as one of California's "Top Women Litigators," 2005, 2007-2014

- Listed, "Top Women Attorneys in Southern California - Entertainment and Sports," *Los Angeles Magazine*, 2012
- Listed by *Variety* as one of the Entertainment industry's top 50 "Legal Impact" attorneys, 2011
- Listed by *Variety* as one of the Entertainment industry's "Women of Impact," 2011
- Named an "[Attorney of The Year](#)" by *The Recorder* (San Francisco), 2009
- Named one of "The Best of the Bar" by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*, 2007
- Listed, Best Lawyers In America
- Named one of Southern California's Super Lawyers by *Law & Politics Magazine*, 2004-2013

- Named one of Los Angeles' "Women Who Make A Difference" by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*, 2006
- Named by Century City Chamber of Commerce "Women of Achievement," 2002
- Rated, "AV Preeminent 5.0 out of 5," Martindale Hubbell