



Douglas E. Mirell

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Doug Mirell is a rarity: A powerhouse litigator in the entertainment field, and a lawyer who follows his conscience.

Representing celebrities, entertainers, companies, guilds, media concerns, and others in litigation over the course of several decades—and counting—his imprint can be found on hundreds of important entertainment-related issues that were resolved in the courts or that required legislative action.

Specifically, Doug is a driving force in First Amendment and entertainment industry lawsuits; anti-SLAPP motions; copyright and trademark infringement actions; new and traditional media law issues; invasion of privacy and defamation claims; and publicity rights disputes. He is also a sought-after source for advice and commentary on Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act.

Perhaps lesser-known, but equally rewarding to Doug, is his work litigating constitutional law questions that helped protect immigrant rights; prevent the electoral disenfranchisement of minority communities; and enforce freedom of information, public records, and other government access statutes.

Doug regularly reviews video and film footage (including movies, documentaries, and reality television programs), internet websites, podcasts, motion picture and television screenplays, stage plays, newspapers, magazines, and books to identify intellectual property rights infringements and potential publication tort claims. He previously authored *amicus curiae* briefs in various appellate courts for the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. and represented all of the MPAA's member companies in nationwide litigation against computer users who were illegally trafficking in those studios' copyrighted motion pictures on "peer-to-peer" file-sharing networks.

Making a difference for clients

In his practice, Doug is drawn to challenges that often involve confronting and surmounting new or unexpected problems. He says this is where his personal skill set proves most useful. One example includes the legislative work he carried out, together with an Academy Award® winning actor and others, to significantly enhance the criminal penalties and create a new civil remedy for the harassment of celebrity children caused by overly aggressive paparazzi. "No one had thought to do what we did—go to the California Legislature and request a safe space for celebrity kids. It proved to be a fascinating and extraordinarily successful effort that has made a huge

difference in many lives. Improving the professional or personal lives of my clients is the ultimate reward. I think that's what every lawyer should strive to do."

Doug also attributes his success to frequent communication with his clients. He believes that every client deserves to be informed by their legal counsel at all times. "At every stage of a matter, I want my clients to know not only what's going on, but also what that means in the long term; they should understand the ramifications of each particular action." He says that remaining in touch—whether by email, phone, text message, videoconference, or in-person—improves the attorney/client relationship and forestalls miscommunication or misunderstanding down the road.

A stalwart community resource

A decades-long board member of the ACLU of Southern California and of its Foundation (including service as President), Doug has a strong commitment to equal justice and civil rights. He helped mount a successful constitutional challenge to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' 1981 redistricting plan on the grounds that it intentionally discriminated against the County's then-three million Latino residents. He was also co-counsel in a federal court lawsuit on behalf of immigrant plaintiffs that successfully halted implementation of California's Proposition 187. Some of Doug's other high-profile, *pro bono* efforts involved the representation of plaintiffs in landmark free speech and church/state separation litigation.

Doug was also instrumental in providing the legal analysis that helped win passage of four important pieces of California legislation affecting the rights of celebrities in the entertainment community:

- Assembly Bill 1836 (2024), authored by Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, expanded the reach of California's postmortem right of publicity by precluding the production or distribution of a digital replica of a deceased personality's voice or likeness in expressive audiovisual works (including films, TV shows, and video games) or sound recordings without the prior consent of the deceased's heirs or other representatives. On behalf of SAG-AFTRA, Doug testified as a technical legal expert in support of this legislation before the Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee, the Assembly Judiciary Committee, and the Senate Judiciary Committee;
- Assembly Bill 602 (2019), authored by Assembly member Marc Berman, created a new private right of action to sue those who create and distribute unauthorized sexually explicit "deepfakes" – hyper-realistic videos that use artificial intelligence to replace the image of a performer with that of someone else, most frequently an A-list actress;
- Senate Bill 606 (2013), authored by then-State Senator Kevin de León, significantly enhanced the criminal penalties and created a new civil remedy for the harassment of celebrity children by overly aggressive paparazzi; and
- Senate Bill 771 (2007), authored by then-State Senator Sheila Kuehl, clarified that the statutory post-mortem right of publicity applies to those celebrities who predeceased that law's original effective date of January 1, 1985.

A voice in the media

A sought-after speaker, writer, and commentator, Doug authored over 25 expert commentaries on the O.J. Simpson criminal and civil trials for WESTLAW's specialized "Notable Trials" computer database. During eight appearances before Judge Lance A. Ito in the Simpson criminal trial, he argued against sealing coroner's records, autopsy photographs, juror dismissal transcripts, and other court documents; imposing a "gag order" upon trial participants; conducting a mid-trial inquest into the undisclosed sources of a controversial local TV news report; closing juror voir dire proceedings, and terminating courtroom television/radio coverage.

In addition, Doug has written Op-Ed columns for the Los Angeles Times, U.S. News, The Hollywood Reporter, Law360, the Los Angeles Daily Journal, and the Jewish Journal; he has frequently been interviewed for his perspective on various intellectual property, defamation, and other First Amendment-related issues by major newspapers and magazines, as well as by local, national, and international radio and television outlets.

Bar Admissions

- California, 1980

Court Admissions

- United States Supreme Court
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals
- California Supreme Court
- All California District Courts as well as various other jurisdictions

Education

- University of California, Davis School of Law (J.D., 1980)
- Claremont McKenna College (B.A., *cum laude*, 1977)

Representative Matters

- Counsel for Terry Bollea (professionally known as Hulk Hogan) in pre-trial depositions that helped secure a \$140.1 million jury verdict in an invasion of privacy lawsuit against Gawker Media, its founder/CEO Nick Denton, and former Gawker.com Editor-in-Chief A.J. Daulerio
- Sought and obtained the extraordinary retraction of an entire 6,500-word article that appeared in *The Atlantic* because it breached repeated promises of anonymity; the author manipulated and lied to her sources, while also deceiving the magazine by seriously falsifying and egregiously distorting various aspects of the personal family lives of those sources. This retraction was accompanied by an 800-word editor's note that apologized to readers and explained some of the story's significant errors and fabrications

- Lead counsel for Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., the Presiding Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ, in a federal court defamation lawsuit that resulted in the entry of a permanent injunction, the removal of dozens of wholly false and highly inflammatory YouTube videos, the incarceration of the defendant responsible for creating and posting those videos upon a finding of civil contempt of court, and a referral of that defendant to the United States Attorney's Office for a potential criminal contempt prosecution
- Counsel in a two-year trial of the then-largest shareholder/dissenter's rights case in American legal history involving a privately-held real estate corporation
- Successfully defended The Franklin Mint in a publicity rights, false advertising, and false endorsement case brought by the memorial fund and estate of the late Princess Diana
- Counsel for world-famous paranormal researcher and author Zak Bagans – host of the Travel Channel's #1-rated *Ghost Adventures* reality television series and owner of The Haunted Museum in Las Vegas – in a dispute with Ranker.com and its associated Graveyard Shift Facebook site (@rankergraveyardshift) that resulted in the permanent deletion of a negative and inaccurate article and the issuance of a public apology to Mr. Bagans
- Successfully defended a book author/publisher and a television producer/network against a lawsuit filed by Elizabeth Taylor which sought to prevent the publication of an unauthorized biography and the airing of an unauthorized television mini-series on her life
- Successfully defended the author of a book about the Scott Peterson murder trial against an attempt by Peterson and his lawyers to censor its contents
- Regularly obtains retractions of defamatory statements in both traditional print media and online postings
- Successfully represented various criminal defense attorneys and their clients in challenging court-imposed gag orders
- Co-counsel in the successful constitutional challenge to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' 1981 redistricting plan on the grounds that it intentionally discriminated against the county's then-3 million Latino residents, resulting in the election of a Latina – the first woman ever elected to the Board and the first Hispanic to serve on that powerful body in 115 years
- Co-counsel for immigrant plaintiffs in the federal court lawsuit that successfully halted implementation of California's Proposition 187
- Co-counsel for Hispanic plaintiffs in a successful challenge to the at-large election system in the Compton Unified School District that resulted in the adoption of a district-based election system, a requirement that those elections occur concurrent with statewide primary elections rather than in odd-numbered years when voter turnout is substantially lower, and the advancement of the date of the first such election from November 2022 to March 2020

Insights

October 6, 2024

Three Pending Supreme Court Rulings That May Change America

Newsweek

September 11, 2024

Taylor Swift has endorsed Kamala Harris for president — will it matter?

NPR

August 31, 2024

California Passes Law Requiring Consent for AI Digital Replicas of Dead Performers

Variety

August 23, 2024

If Taylor Swift sued Donald Trump over sharing AI images, how strong would her case be?

The Tennessean

August 22, 2024

Everyone wants Taylor Swift's vote. But celebrity endorsements are complicated.

NPR

August 22, 2024

How the NO FAKES Act is a Bipartisan Challenge To AI

No Film School

August 15, 2024

48 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Named to 2025 Best Lawyers® and Ones to Watch® Lists

August 14, 2024

The NO FAKES Act and the Challenges of Artificial Intelligence

Following Films Podcast

August 1, 2024

Litigation Partner Doug Mirell Consults with SAG-AFTRA on AI Issues

May 8, 2024

ByteDance has strong free speech case against TikTok ban, attorneys say

Daily Journal

May 7, 2024

TikTok sues U.S. government, saying ban violates 1st Amendment

Los Angeles Times

April 25, 2024

Breaking down TikTok's legal arguments around free speech, national security claims

TechCrunch

April 22, 2024

What's the Future of TikTok if U.S. Ban Goes Through? Here's What the Experts are Saying

IGN

February 22, 2024

In the Face of Nefarious Deepfakes, Congress Must Curb the Abuses of Artificial Intelligence

U.S. News

February 21, 2024

Doug Mirell Recognized by Thomson Reuters as a Stand-Out Lawyer 2024

Thomson Reuters

January 10, 2024

31 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Selected to 2024 Southern California Super Lawyers

Super Lawyers

December 27, 2023

The New York Times takes on Artificial Intelligence

KCBS Radio

October 26, 2023

Hollywood's AI Concerns About "Digital Replicas" Are Now Being Debated by Congress

The Hollywood Reporter

October 26, 2023

Justices Should Nix Section 230 Immunity For Tech

Law360

September 15, 2023

Deepfakes Remain A Threat Ahead Of 2024 Elections

Law360

September 1, 2023

Michelle Mabugat and Doug Mirell Author Amicus Curiae Brief in Landmark California Supreme Court Decision

Greenberg Glusker Announcement

August 17, 2023

52 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Named to 2024 Best Lawyers® and Ones to Watch® Lists

July 10, 2023

Sarah Silverman's Artificial Intelligence Copyright Infringement Lawsuits

CBS World News Roundup

May 18, 2023

Andy Warhol's estate loses at Supreme Court over his use of copyrighted photo of Prince

Los Angeles Times

April 20, 2023

Did Dominion Dominate Fox?

Daily Journal

April 18, 2023

After a last-minute delay, the Fox-Dominion defamation trial is set to begin

CNN

April 17, 2023

Will Dominion Dominate Fox?

Daily Journal

April 16, 2023

The Dominion Case: Fox News Stumbles Into 1st Amendment Fight of the Century With One Arm Tied Behind Its Back

The Wrap

April 12, 2023

How the Fox News Billion-Dollar Lawsuit Will Unfold

The Town with Matthew Belloni

February 24, 2023

The Supreme Court Won't Fix Section 230 for the Same Reason as Congress: It's Political

The Wrap

February 23, 2023

What we learned from two rounds of Supreme Court arguments over internet liability

Yahoo! Finance

February 23, 2023

Revealing Fox News Texts

Bloomberg Law Podcast

February 21, 2023

Can Social Media Be Sued for Recommending Content?

ABC7 News

January 19, 2023

Rupert Murdoch to be deposed in \$1.6 billion Dominion defamation case

Reuters

January 10, 2023

35 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Selected to 2023 Southern California Super Lawyers

Super Lawyers

December 22, 2022

Guest Column: Behind SAG-AFTRA's Long-Awaited Victory in IMDb Birthday Display Battle

The Hollywood Reporter

October 13, 2022

Alex Jones Paid Price For Uniquely 'Offensive' Lies, Attys Say

Law360

October 13, 2022

Could the jury's \$965M verdict against Alex Jones be slashed?

Reuters

October 12, 2022

Alex Jones must pay Sandy Hook families nearly \$1 billion for hoax claims, jury says

Reuters

October 11, 2022

Platform immunity in the crosshairs

Daily Journal

September 23, 2022

Alex Jones Defamation Trial

Court TV

September 13, 2022

Alex Jones Defamation Trial

Court TV

August 18, 2022

38 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Named to 2023 Best Lawyers® List

August 13, 2022

Dominion Voting Systems v. Fox News

KCBS Radio

August 10, 2022

Alex Jones Verdict

Bloomberg Law Podcast

August 5, 2022

Jury awards \$45.2 million in punitive damages in Alex Jones Sandy Hook trial

Reuters

August 3, 2022

Alex Jones and Company on Trial For Falsely Claiming Sandy Hook Shooting Was A Hoax

Newsy Tonight with Chance Seales

July 31, 2022

A Defamation Battle Between Alex Jones and the Families of Sandy Hook Victims

KCBS Radio

April 22, 2022

Poking Holes in CDA Section 230 Immunity

Daily Journal

April 20, 2022

Jerry West demands an apology from HBO for its portrayal of the former Lakers star in its show "Winning Time"

CNN

March 10, 2022

Netflix Takes on Texas: Attorneys Analyze the "Outlandish" Fight Over 'Cuties'

The Hollywood Reporter

March 3, 2022

Did Ye's revenge music video go too far?

Los Angeles Times

February 3, 2022

Palin Takes on N.Y. Times in Trial Targeting Press Protections

Bloomberg Law

February 2, 2022

Expert: Palin V. NYT Could Change Free Press

Associated Press

January 31, 2022

Pam and Tommy, sex tape pioneers, changed the Internet forever. They didn't ask for it.

The Washington Post

January 20, 2022

26 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Selected to 2022 Southern California Super Lawyers
Super Lawyers

November 1, 2021

What Podcasters Need To Know About Fair Use
Forbes

August 30, 2021

Inside The 'Battleground For The Internet's Soul': Section 230
Law360

August 23, 2021

Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Represent Allison Huynh in a Divorce with a Silicon Valley Billionaire

August 19, 2021

37 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Named to 2022 Best Lawyers® List

July 13, 2021

Reddit not liable for pornographic posts of underage girls
Daily Journal

June 1, 2021

Big Tech's Immunity To Get Tough Look At 3rd Circuit
Law360

May 5, 2021

California Supreme Court issues social media rules for judges
Southern California Record

April 26, 2021

Reddit denies claims in suit that it allows child pornography
Daily Journal

March 12, 2021

Amazon Won't Sell Anti-Trans Books
TMZ Live

March 9, 2021

Katie Hill's 'Revenge Porn' Lawsuit Faces a First Amendment Challenge
Los Angeles Magazine

March 7, 2021

Twitter Removed The Option To Report Tweets For Violating Its Civic Integrity Policy
Grit Daily

February 10, 2021

Partner Doug Mirell Quoted in Los Angeles Times' Article About Larry Flynt's Legacy

Los Angeles Times

January 21, 2021

26 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Selected to 2021 Southern California Super Lawyers

Super Lawyers

January 21, 2021

Judge Refuses to Order Amazon to Host Parler

Law.com | The Recorder

January 19, 2021

The Wide Shot: Will Biden Be Good for Hollywood?

Los Angeles Times

January 7, 2021

Trump's Big Tech Lockout Adds Fuel to Oversight Debate

Law360

December 28, 2020

Katie Hill Is Suing Her Ex and Two Media Outlets

Los Angeles Magazine

October 28, 2020

There Is No Help On The Horizon To Protect Businesses From Disinformation, Misinformation

Forbes

September 23, 2020

Dershowitz faces some hurdles in defamation case against CNN

Daily Journal

August 25, 2020

Online liability laws conflict with federal ruling

Daily Journal

August 20, 2020

36 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Named to 2021 Best Lawyers® List

July 24, 2020

No Easy Fix Seen for Digital Copyright Law Amid Content Flood

Bloomberg Law

July 22, 2020

Clint Eastwood calls out fake cannabis product endorsements

Los Angeles Times

June 18, 2020

"Occupy" Protest Wakes Residents

Beverly Hills Weekly

June 17, 2020

COVID Couture. Covidiot. Coronavirus trademark hopefuls flood patent office

Los Angeles Times

June 8, 2020

Greenberg Glusker, ACLU and EFF File Lawsuit to Stop Los Angeles from Collecting Real-Time Tracking Data on Rental Scooter Riders

June 5, 2020

Copyright Office Should Call For Further DMCA Rebalancing

Law360

May 27, 2020

Dentistry professor sues UC for alleged retaliation following Title IX testimony

Daily Bruin

January 17, 2020

Reforming The Internet

Daily Journal

January 15, 2020

23 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Selected to 2020 Southern California Super Lawyers

January 10, 2020

Proposed law indicates much is still unknown about deepfakes

Daily Journal

January 8, 2020

AB 602 and AB 730: Curbing "deepfakes" in pornography and elections

Daily Journal

January 6, 2020

Legal Tech's Predictions for Artificial Intelligence in 2020

LegalTech News

December 23, 2019

On the Frontier of the 2020 Election Season, California Legislates Deepfakes

Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB)

December 16, 2019

Judge excludes public from boxer Victor Ortiz's preliminary hearing over rape allegations

VC Star

October 31, 2019

How Local Republican Operatives Brought Down Katie Hill

Los Angeles Magazine

October 28, 2019

Tracking Early State Legislative Efforts To Curb Deepfakes

Law360

August 15, 2019

29 Greenberg Glusker LLP Lawyers Named to 2020 Best Lawyers® List

July 3, 2019

Justices agree, mostly, that ban on 'immoral,' 'scandalous' trademarks violates free speech

Westlaw Journal

June 27, 2019

Is That Actor Real? The Lowdown on Deepfakes

Backstage

June 25, 2019

High Court Strikes Down Patent Office's Standard of 'Immoral'

Los Angeles Daily Journal

June 24, 2019

Supreme Court rules L.A. clothing maker can trademark 'scandalous' brand name

Los Angeles Times

June 24, 2019

Federal Limit on Vulgar Trademarks Thrown Out by High Court (1)

Bloomberg Law

May 24, 2019

Adachi leak case: Even if raid on journalist was illegal, source may be outed

San Francisco Chronicle

January 31, 2019

24 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Selected to 2019 Southern California Super Lawyers

January 25, 2019

Yelp, Defamation And The Mischief Wrought By Section 230

Law360

November 13, 2018

CNN's First Legal Threshold in Acosta Case: A Temporary Restraining Order

Variety

August 30, 2018

Who Owns You? SAG-AFTRA Steps Up the Fight to Ensure Members Have Control of Their Own Likeness

SAG-AFTRA Magazine

August 15, 2018

26 Greenberg Glusker attorneys named to 2019 Best Lawyers® list

May 22, 2018

GOP fundraiser subpoenas AP over hacked emails, setting up legal showdown

Politico

April 27, 2018

L.A. County politician sexually assaulted woman when she was 16, lawsuit claims

Los Angeles Times

April 3, 2018

1st Circ. Affirms NH Court's Defamation Suit Dismissal

Law360

February 13, 2018

2018 Starting Off Great for Anti-Piracy Advocates

Los Angeles Daily Journal

February 5, 2018

Greenberg Glusker Welcomes Free Speech Attorney Douglas E. Mirell

Greenberg Glusker Media Mention

2017- 2018

Chapter 9: Defamation (Libel and Slander), Obscenity and Regulation of Speech and Chapter 10: California's Anti-SLAPP Law

Entertainment Law and Litigation

August 31, 2017

20 Years Ago, Princess Diana Died After Being Chased By Paparazzi. Have We Made Any Progress?

A Plus

August 25, 2017

Calif. Says IMDb Age Info Not Protected By 1st Amendment

Law360

February 9, 2017

Preserving the barrier between church and state

The Jewish Journal

January 10, 2017

Probably Not Terrible Realistic: Woman Sues Chipotle For \$2.2 Billion Over Photograph

Los Angeles Times

December 13, 2016

Leah Remini To LAPD: Cough Up Proof That You Checked On Shelly Miscavige

The Underground Bunker

November 22, 2016

Leah Remini demands \$1.5 million from Scientology for interfering with her A&E series

The Underground Bunker

September 21, 2016

Derrick Rose accuser to be stripped of anonymity at trial

Associated Press

September 12, 2016

Hilton files two lawsuits against city, alleges violation of First Amendment rights

Beverly Hills Weekly

April 5, 2016

Hulk Hogan's Lead Lawyer Explains How His Team Beat "Arrogant," "Defiant" Gawker (Guest Column)

The Hollywood Reporter

March 23, 2016

A.J. Daulerio Doesn't Regret Child Sex Quip at Hogan-Gawker Trial

The Daily Beast

March 18, 2016

Jury awards Hulk Hogan \$115 million in sex, celebrity and privacy case

Los Angeles Times

March 11, 2016

Gawker on trial: Hulk Hogan sex tapes 'very amusing' and 'newsworthy'

The Washington Post

March 9, 2016

Gawker Editor's Testimony Stuns Courtroom in Hulk Hogan Trial

The New York Times

March 9, 2016

Gawker's reasoning for showing the world Hulk Hogan's penis

New York Post

March 9, 2016

Former Gawker editor-in-chief A.J. Daulerio says sex tapes of 5-year-olds fair game during Hulk Hogan trial

New York Daily News

February 22, 2016

33-Month Decision Gives Few Answers

Los Angeles Daily Journal

February 22, 2016

FBI versus Apple: The privacy threat is overblown

Jewish Journal

October 7, 2015

Drone on in California, At Least For Now

Los Angeles Daily Journal

August 31, 2015

Will dueling op-eds turn into dueling lawsuits?

Jewish Journal

February 12, 2015

Woman sues over cops grabbing her phone during arrest

CBS News

December 22, 2014

Pam and Tommy: The Untold Story of the World's Most Infamous Sex Tape

Rolling Stone

November 8, 2014

Audio Hangs Over '7th Heaven' Actor's Divorce Case

Associated Press

October 3, 2014

Privacy Interests Prevail in Sacramento

Los Angeles Daily Journal

September 23, 2014

Instead of Prohibiting Bad Reviews, Firms Should Improve Service

Los Angeles Times

February 3, 2014

Post-Mortem Publicity Rights Phoenix Rising

Los Angeles Daily Journal

September 2010

Right-of-Publicity Statutes: Some Historical Reflections and Recent Developments

Communications Lawyer

March 2010

Proposed Amendment to California's Right of Publicity Statute Would Harm Media

MLRC Media Law Letter

October 2009

Compounding the Felony: California's Amended Anti-Paparazzi Statute Media Law Resource Center

Media Law Letter, pp. 24-26

April 2009

The Fine Line Between Editorial Content and Advertising

Corporate Counsel

March 2008

California Clarifies Its Posthumous Right of Publicity Statute

Journal of Intellectual Property Law & Practice, pp. 224-225

January 10, 2007

SAG-AFTRA Wants to Become a Defendant in Lawsuit Over Actors' Ages on IMDb

The Hollywood Reporter

June 2003

The Publicity Rights Worm Turns

Media Law Resource Center Media Law Letter, pp. 35-37

November 2002

Idea Theft in the Advertising and Promotions Industry

PMA Law Conference Compendium

November 1999

Speech Expansion

California Law Business

1997

Gag Orders and Attorney Discipline Rules: Why Not Base the Former Upon the Latter

Loyola of Los Angeles Entertainment Law Journal (Vol. 17, No. 2)

1995

The Latest Threat to Free Speech: California's Proposed Bar Rules

Communications Lawyer

1995-1996 Edition

The Trial of the Century: Some Implications for the Next Millennium

Entertainment, Publishing and the Arts Handbook

January 1995

Can O.J. Simpson Profit From the Sale of His Book?

Entertainment Law Reporter