



David A. Steinberg

Partner, through his Professional Corporation



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legal expertise

David A. Steinberg is a partner in Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp's Entertainment & IP Litigation Practice Group, based in the Los Angeles office. Mr. Steinberg is one of the foremost authorities on intellectual property issues, focusing on representing music, motion picture, television, and media companies in copyright, trademark, anti-circumvention/Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), unfair competition, and trade secrets matters. As a member of MSK's Video Game Industry Group, he also advises major video game and interactive entertainment clients on right of publicity, right of privacy, First Amendment, fair use, and misappropriation claims.

Mr. Steinberg's experience spans entertainment and general business litigation in state and federal courts, courts of appeal, and numerous arbitration tribunals. Additionally, he provides strategic counsel on publishing, distribution, and licensing deals, and advises on complex contractual disputes and intellectual property and technology agreements.

representative matters

- Represents all of the major record companies as well as independent record companies and music publishing companies in all types of litigation matters, including royalty disputes, copyright claims, related business disputes, and class actions.
- Generally represents film/TV production companies in a variety of disputes, including royalty disputes, licensee issues, copyright and trademark matters.
- Represented one of the world's first independent developer and distributor of video games in a high-profile trademark dispute in the Southern District of New York involving challenges to the realistic depictions of the military vehicle, HUMVEE, in *Call of Duty*.
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of Activision Blizzard against Axl Rose's tort and contract claims concerning *Guitar Hero III*.

practice areas

litigation
commercial litigation
intellectual property
entertainment & ip
litigation
specialties

admissions

California, 1987
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. District Court
Central District of California
Eastern District of California
Southern District of California
Northern District of California

education

University of California Los Angeles School of Law, J.D., 1987
Binghamton University, State University of New York, B.A., 1984, with Honors



David A. Steinberg

- Prevailed in an anti-SLAPP motion on behalf of Take-Two Interactive and Rockstar Games against right of publicity claim and claims of fraud and misappropriation of likeness regarding the lead character in their hugely popular video game *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*.
- Currently defending a developer and publisher of video games in a contractual dispute concerning services rendered for a popular eSports world championship tour.
- Successfully represented Post Malone and the producer Frank Dukes adverse to a putative songwriter who brought claims of joint ownership in both the sound recording and composition of the hit song "Circles."
- Obtained a favorable resolution on behalf of songwriter and music producer Dr. Luke in his decade long defamation case against Kesha Sebert.
- As co-lead counsel for the defense, obtained judgment as a matter of law, following jury trial, on behalf of all Defendants, dismissing Plaintiff's copyright infringement claim that Jay Z and Timbaland's song "Big Pimpin'" infringed his alleged copyright in an Egyptian composition.
- Successfully confirmed, at arbitration, a movie studio's rights in a top grossing film franchise.
- Obtained a multi-million dollar judgment against a satellite broadcasting system on behalf of an international television network.
- Represented one of the largest internet entertainment content providers in all aspects of trademark, copyright, First Amendment, right of publicity and litigation matters.
- Represented plaintiffs and defendants in various right of publicity, right of privacy, and misappropriation matters, involving musicians, recording artists, athletes, actors and personalities.
- Obtained multi-million dollar verdict after trial for insurance company in international fraud case.
- Represented well-known television personality in dispute with management/production company, successfully terminating management contract.
- Successfully defended well known entrepreneurs and their companies from wrongful termination lawsuits.
- Successfully defended (after trial) major record company in dispute over ownership of sound recordings, rights of publicity, and credit issues.
- Achieved summary judgment for well-known musicians against claim for royalties and breach of contract.
- Successfully represented record companies/producers/songwriters in copyright dispute and "sampling" issues.
- Represents musical groups and their members in litigation over group names.
- Prevailed at numerous arbitrations for international film distributors in disputes over foreign distribution rights.



David A. Steinberg

- Represented several law firms in successful defense of malpractice claims.
- Successfully represented musical group in contract claim by former manager.

honors & awards

- "Client Service All-Star," BTI Consulting Group (2025)
- "Top Music Lawyers," *Billboard* (2023-2025)
- "Music Legal Elite," *Variety* (2025)
- AV® Preeminent™ Rating, Martindale-Hubbell

professional, business and civic affiliations

- American Bar Association, Litigation Section

headlines

Three MSK Attorneys Named As 2025 BTI "Client Service All-Star"
BTI Consulting Group, August 15, 2025

Christine Lepera, David Steinberg, Bradley Mullins, and Gabriella Ismaj Named to *Variety's* 2025 "Music Legal Elite" List
Variety, July 30, 2025

Four MSK Attorneys Named to *Billboard's* 2025 "Top Music Lawyers" List
Billboard, April 19, 2025

Four MSK Attorneys Named to *Billboard's* 2024 "Top Music Lawyers" List
Billboard, April 1, 2024

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp Announces New Leadership
Business Wire, December 11, 2023

7 MSK Attorneys Named to *Billboard's* 2023 "Top Music Lawyers" List
Billboard, April 3, 2023

MSK Team Highlighted in *Law360* for Nickelback Win
Law360, March 17, 2023



David A. Steinberg

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp Elects New Leadership Team
May 27, 2021

media mentions

MSK Team Featured in *Law360* for Fifth Circuit Win
Law360, February 20, 2024

Christine Lepera and MSK Team Highlighted in *Billboard* Involving Major Win for Dr. Luke
Billboard, March 11, 2022

Christine Lepera and David Steinberg Mentioned in Media for "Big Pimpin" Appellate Arguments
December 8, 2017

Christine Lepera and David Steinberg Mentioned in *Billboard* and *The Hollywood Reporter*
March 1, 2017

MSK Attorneys Named in *Daily Journal's* Top Verdicts Special Report
February 18, 2016

Christine Lepera and David Steinberg Mentioned in *Law360*
February 2, 2016

Federal Court Issues Directed Verdict in the Fahmy v. Jay Z Trial
October 21, 2015

client alerts

Ninth Circuit Rules in Favor of Led Zeppelin, Clarifies Standards for Copyright Infringement
MSK Client Alert, March 11, 2020

events & speaking engagements

Video Game Law Conference Tokyo 2019
Hosted by BANDAI NAMCO Entertainment
September 13, 2019