



Eric J. German

Partner



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legal expertise

Eric counsels clients on entertainment, copyright, and trademark transactions, negotiations, and litigation, primarily in the areas of music, television, film, fashion and apparel, video games, and computer software.

representative matters

- Day-to-day representation and counseling of various recording artists, songwriters, record labels, music publishing companies, video game publishers, and fashion and apparel brands.
- Successfully defended award-winning writer, producer, and television network in federal court against claims of copyright infringement concerning popular television series.
- Successfully represented Take2 Interactive and Rockstar Games in a trademark infringement lawsuit before U.S. District Court and Court of Appeals alleging the company's game "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" infringes upon the marks of a Los Angeles business establishment.
- Successfully represented the recording industry in its copyright infringement lawsuits against KaZaA, Grokster, and Napster P2P file-sharing services.
- Successfully represented radio station defendant before the California Court of Appeal in case concerning station's alleged failure to investigate the accuracy of its advertisers' claims.
- Successfully represented major record companies in litigation against owners and operators of flea markets/swap meets in California, Texas, and New Jersey where vendors repeatedly sold infringing CDs.
- Successfully obtained summary judgment on behalf of the motion picture industry in its suit against the manufacturer of DVD-copying software for

practice areas

corporate & business transactions

- corporate governance
- crowdfunding
- early-stage private company financing
- general corporate law
- mergers & acquisitions

entertainment transactions

intellectual property

- entertainment & ip litigation

litigation

- commercial litigation

admissions

California, 2002

New York, 1999

U.S. District Court

- Central District of California, 2004
- Eastern District of California, 2003
- Northern District of California, 2004
- Eastern District of New York, 2000
- Southern District of New York, 2000

U.S. Court of Appeals, 2007

Ninth Circuit



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violations of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

- Successfully defended major beauty products manufacturer at jury trial on trademark and unfair competition suit.
- Successfully obtained permanent injunction on behalf of major consumer products company in false advertising matter.

honors & awards

- "Dealmaker," *Variety* (2025)
- "Top Music Lawyer," *Billboard* (2022-2025)
- Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*® in the fields of:
 - Copyright Law (2023-2026)
- "Top 5% of lawyers in Southern California," *Southern California Super Lawyers* (2005, 2010, 2012-2014)

professional, business and civic affiliations

- Member, Grammy Museum Foundation Development Committee (2022-Present)
- Adjunct Professor, "Law for Music and Entertainment," S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and The Bandier Program at Syracuse University - L.A. (2009 - Present)

headlines

Eric German Named to *Variety's* 2025 "Dealmakers Impact Report"
Variety, December 31, 2025

37 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*® for 2026
Best Lawyers, August 21, 2025

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

34 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*® for 2025
August 15, 2024

education

Boston University School of Law, J.D., 1997; *magna cum laude*

Note Editor, *Boston University Law Review*

Syracuse University, B.S., 1992

other career experience

- Proskauer Rose LLP, 1998-2002
- Served as law clerk to the Hon. Thomas G. Nelson, U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit, 1997-1998



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

38 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*© for 2024
August 17, 2023

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

Eric German, Christine Lepera, Jeffrey Movit and Bradley Mullins Named to *Billboard's* 2022 "Top Music Lawyers" List
Billboard, March 28, 2022

Eric German Highlighted in "A New Level" Podcast Interview
July 3, 2018

Eric German Highlighted in "The Ex Man with Doc Coyle" Podcast Interview
January 8, 2018

Eric German Highlighted in a "Waldman's Words" Podcast Interview
August 15, 2017

Eric German Highlighted in Podcast Interview
March 6, 2017

S.T.A.K.E. Award Scholarship for Social Entrepreneurship
May 19, 2009

media mentions

Eric German Quoted in *Billboard* Discussing Video Games
Billboard, July 24, 2020

Eric German Mentioned in *Music Connection's* January 2018 Issue
January 2, 2018

Eric German Mentioned in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*
January 31, 2017

18 Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp Attorneys Named to the 2015 Super Lawyers Business Edition
November 21, 2014

26 MSK Attorneys Named to 2014 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List
January 2014



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26 MSK Attorneys Named to 2013 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List
January 2013

25 Named to 2012 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List
January 23, 2012

Eric German Quoted in *Daily Journal* Regarding Celebrity Brand-Building
July 7, 2011

SXSW: Revenue Streams in the Music Industry
March 22, 2010

28 Named to 2010 Southern California Super Lawyers List
January 26, 2010

publications

The Streaming Revolution in the Entertainment Industry
International Association of Entertainment Lawyers, January/February 2012

Pollution in the Blogosphere: The only purpose of a new form of blog, called a splog, is fraud and infringement
June 2007

User-Directed 'Personalization' of Video Game Content: Balancing Consumer Demand v. Legal Reality
April 2007

Legal Maze of Personalization, Next Generation
August 2005

client alerts

Major League Baseball Swings and Misses: The First Amendment Protects Unlicensed
Intellectual Property & Technology Newsletter, September 2006

events & speaking engagements

Deal Or No Deal: Live Contract Negotiation
June 12, 2025

Catalog Sales, Everything You Need to Know
June 13, 2022

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Guardians of the Galaxy: Building a Team
LAUNCH Music Conference 2020 Digital
July 24, 2020

Call To Order; Navigating and Negotiating an Indie Record Deal
June 17, 2020

The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) 2018 Winter Show
January 25-28, 2018

Bumps in the Road: When Deals Almost Derail
November 16, 2017

How to Establish a Career in Music Law
March 28, 2017

11th Annual Indie Week 2016, Moderator
June 14, 2016

The Hunt for the Next Great Metal Band
March 18, 2016

A&R and Making Records
February 4, 2016

Art of the Deal
June 2015

To Free or Not to Free: Should Artists Be Giving Away Their Music?
January 24, 2013

Pedal to the Metal
October 16, 2012

Eric German to Interview *Free Ride* Author Robert Levine at A2IM's Indie Week 2012
June 20, 2012

How Stella Got Her Masters Back
March 19, 2012

How Indie Metal is Surviving and Thriving
March 9, 2012

Making a Living in Tomorrow's Music Industry
January 19, 2012

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Eric J. German

Game Changers: Gaming & the Music Industry

October 18, 2011

After YouTube and Veoh: Have Courts (or Congress) Failed Creators or Struck the Right Balance?

November 9, 2010

Getting Paid From the Song

October 22, 2010

Promotional Value vs. Licensing Revenue

March 19, 2010

The Law and You – from take down notices, what's on and off the record, spam laws and rumors via twitter, when you do and don't have a law on your side

October 19, 2009

Music Business Crash Course: Current Industry Trends

June 2009

Digital Music Panel: New Developments and Trends in 2009

February 2, 2009

Digital Rights Management

September 2007

User-Generated Content, Social Networking and Hollywood

March 2007

Studio SX Live Interviewee

March 2007

Covering Your Musical Assets

February 2007

Loyola Law School Intellectual Property Society

2004