



## Karin Pagnanelli

Partner, through her Professional Corporation

2049 Century Park East  
18th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90067

t (310) 312-2000  
f (310) 312-2000  
kgp@msk.com

### legal expertise

Karin Pagnanelli is the National Chair of Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp's Entertainment & IP Litigation Practice Group, Co-Chair of the Video Game Practice Group, and is a member of the firm's management. She specializes in copyright and trademark actions, and in particular, focuses on issues of first impression relevant to the entertainment industry. Karin is consistently recognized for her work by publications such as *Chambers USA*, *World Intellectual Property Review*, *World Trademark Review*, *Managing IP*, *Legal 500*, *The Recorder*, *Los Angeles Business Journal*, *Daily Journal*, *Profiles in Diversity Journal*, *Super Lawyers*, and *BTI Consulting Group*.

### representative matters

- Successful representation of Activision Blizzard in "title v. title" trademark infringement action.
- Lead Counsel in successful litigation for Activision Blizzard in action alleging copyright infringement, trademark infringement, and right of publicity, including the recovery of attorney's fees.
- Lead counsel in successful representation of Ubisoft Entertainment in copyright infringement, trademark infringement, and right of publicity litigation in federal court.
- As lead counsel for defense, obtained summary judgment for Activision Blizzard, Inc., Activision Publishing, Inc., and Major League Gaming Corp. in a high-profile dispute in the Southern District of New York involving challenges to the realistic depictions of the military vehicle, HUMVEE, in "Call of Duty." Dismissed all of Plaintiff's claims for trademark and trade dress infringement, unfair competition, false designation of origin, false advertising, and dilution under the Lanham Act and New York law.
- Lead counsel in the successful representation of Blizzard Entertainment and Valve Corporation in a copyright infringement suit against uCool and Lilith

### practice areas

litigation  
commercial litigation  
intellectual property  
entertainment & ip  
litigation  
trademarks & brands  
specialties  
Artificial Intelligence (AI)  
cross-border practice  
video game

### admissions

California  
U.S. District Court  
Central District of California  
Eastern District of California  
Northern District of California  
Southern District of  
California  
U.S. Court of Appeals  
First Circuit  
Seventh Circuit  
Ninth Circuit  
Federal Circuit  
U.S. Supreme Court

### education

Southwestern Law School,  
J.D.; *magna cum laude*  
Board of Editors - Research

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los angeles  
t 310.312.2000  
f 310.312.3100

new york  
t 212.509.3900  
f 212.509.7239

washington, dc  
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f 202.355.7899



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involving many of Blizzard Entertainment, Inc.'s high-profile video games such as "World of Warcraft," "Diablo III," and "StarCraft II: Wings of Liberty."

- Successful representation of Sony Music in a trademark infringement lawsuit against the label and members of the British pop group One Direction brought by an American group with the same name.
- Successful representation of Activision Blizzard and obtained summary judgment against Axl Rose's tort and contract claims concerning Guitar Hero III.
- Lead counsel in the successful representation of Take-Two Interactive and Rockstar Games in a trademark infringement lawsuit alleging the company's game "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" infringes upon the marks of a Los Angeles business establishment.
- Obtained summary judgment in favor of Activision in trademark lawsuit involving the popular video game "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3."
- Obtained \$7 million judgment on behalf of Blizzard Entertainment, Inc. against the maker of a popular software "bot" that enabled users to cheat in the video game "World of Warcraft."
- Obtained summary judgment in favor of Blizzard Entertainment, Inc. on copyright and right of publicity claims arising from a set of recordings used to voice a "World of Warcraft" character.
- Representation in groundbreaking file-sharing litigations on behalf of the Recording Industry Association of America, including Napster, Aimster, Grokster, and Bittorrent.
- Represented six major record companies in a high-profile action against an internet website engaged in the large-scale distribution, sale and public performance of sound recordings, including thousands of remastered recordings by the Beatles.
- Represent Ultra International Music Publishing, LLC in asserting claims of copyright infringement against Defendant in connection with, inter alia, Defendant's YouTube channel.
- Representation in copyright lawsuit against Sony Corporation brought by software publisher arising from a Chinese government mandate concerning the software filter known as "Green Dam."

Editor, *Southwestern University Law Review*; Recipient, Federal Bar Association Federal Practice Award; Dean's Merit Scholar; National Dean's List

California State University, Long Beach, B.A. With Distinction

### other career experience

- Law Clerk to the Honorable Charles F. Eick, United States Magistrate Judge, USDC, Central District of California
- Law Clerk to the Honorable Virginia A. Phillips, now United States District Judge, USDC, Central District of California



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- Represent AOL in a trademark infringement action against Advertise.com.
- Represent Hit Entertainment in a wide range of intellectual property disputes and licensing issues.
- Represented NBC Universal as amicus curiae in action against YouTube.
- Representation in multi-national effort that successfully shut down a website trafficking in ripping software that enabled cracking of anti-copying protection on DVDs.
- Designed and implemented anti-piracy programs for video game publishers, music publishers, and record companies relating to the infringement of copyrighted works online.
- Representation of 23 RIAA members in a copyright infringement action against a CD manufacturing plant, resulting in a jury trial award of approximately \$136 million in damages, the largest copyright verdict in U.S. history. Award upheld by 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Represent major furniture designer and manufacturer in trademark litigation filed by Marlon Brando Estate and Clint Eastwood.
- Represent Microsoft, HP, Dell and Acer in patent infringement lawsuit involving file synchronization technology.
- Represent AT&T in a large patent infringement case involving control and monitoring software.
- Represent One World Technologies in patent infringement trial involving laser guided saw.
- Represent counter defendant-appellant Ormco Corp. on patent claims, obtaining a reversal of summary judgment for counterplaintiff-appellee and claims held obvious.
- Represent defendant in claim involving patent on pneumatic foot controller. Obtained summary judgment in favor of defendant on non-infringement.
- Represent the largest theatrical motion picture exhibition circuit in the country in a dispute over the film rental percentage to be paid to an independent distributor for one of the largest grossing motion pictures of 2004.
- Represent international nutritional supplement company in trademark litigation. Jury awarded over \$3 million in damages.
- Represent the RIAA in internet copyright enforcement litigation.
- Awarded summary judgment with respect to dispute over ownership of master recordings of the Allman Brothers Band.

## honors & awards

- "Los Angeles Elite – Media and Entertainment," *Legal 500* (2026)
- "Legal Impact Report," *Variety* (2025)
- Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*® in:
  - Entertainment Law - Motion Pictures and Television (2024-2026)
  - Litigation - Intellectual Property (2026)
- "Leading Lawyer," Media & Entertainment: Litigation, California, *Chambers USA* (2023-2025)
- "Outstanding IP Practitioner," *World Intellectual Property Review Leaders Directory* (2023-2025)
- "The World's Leading Trademark Professionals" - United States: California, *World Trademark Review 1000* (2016, 2018-2022, 2024-2026)
- "Women Worth Watching," *Profiles in Diversity Journal* (2021)
- "Top Trademark Star," *Managing IP* (2020-2021, 2024-2025)
- "Top Copyright Star," *Managing IP* (2020-2021, 2024-2025)
- "Recommended Attorney" in Intellectual Property - Copyright, *Legal 500* (2017 & 2018)
- "Women Leaders in Tech Law," *The Recorder* (2017)
- "Most Influential Intellectual Property Attorneys," *Los Angeles Business Journal* (2017)
- "Most Influential Women Lawyers," *Los Angeles Business Journal* (2017)
- "BTI Client Service All-Star," *BTI Consulting Group* (2017)
- "Who's Who in Intellectual Property Law," *Los Angeles Business Journal* (2012)
- "Top 75 Intellectual Property Litigators in California," *Daily Journal* (2012)
- "Top 75 Women Litigators in California," *Daily Journal* (2011)
- "Top 5% of lawyers in Southern California," *Southern California Super Lawyers* (2004-2015, 2017-2026)
- "Top 50 Under 45," *IP Law & Business* (2008)



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## headlines

12 MSK Attorneys Named to the 2026 Edition of Southern California *Super Lawyers*  
*Super Lawyers*, February 20, 2026

MSK and Four Partners Recognized in 2026 Edition of *World Trademark Review 1000*  
*World Trademark Review*, February 3, 2026

Emily Evitt, Aaron Moss, and Karin Pagnanelli Named to *Legal 500's* 2026 "Los Angeles Elite – Media and Entertainment" Rankings  
*Legal 500*, January 23, 2026

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

Five MSK Practices and Seven Attorneys Recognized in *Chambers USA 2025* Guide  
*Chambers USA*, June 5, 2025

Six MSK Partners Recognized on *Managing IP's* 2025 "IP Stars" List  
*Managing IP*, June 5, 2025

11 MSK Attorneys Named to *World Intellectual Property Review's* Leaders Directory 2025  
*World Intellectual Property Review*, May 19, 2025

Six MSK Litigators Named to *Variety's* 2025 "Legal Impact Report"  
*Variety*, April 9, 2025

13 MSK Attorneys Named to the 2025 Edition of Southern California *Super Lawyers*  
February 18, 2025

MSK and Eleanor M. Lackman, Marissa Lewis, and Karin Pagnanelli Recognized in 2025 Edition of *World Trademark Review 1000*  
*World Trademark Review 1000*, February 13, 2025

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

7 MSK Partners Selected As "Outstanding IP Practitioners" in the *World Intellectual Property Review* Leaders 2024 Directory  
*World Intellectual Property Review*, July 2, 2024

Five MSK Practices and Attorneys Recognized in *Chambers USA 2024* Guide  
*Chambers USA*, June 6, 2024

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los angeles  
t 310.312.2000  
f 310.312.3100

new york  
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washington, dc  
t 202.355.7900  
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Six MSK Partners Recognized on *Managing IP's* 2024 "IP Stars" List  
*Managing IP* , May 31, 2024

MSK and Eleanor M. Lackman, Marissa Lewis, and Karin Pagnanelli Recognized in *World Trademark Review 1000*  
*World Trademark Review 1000*, February 7, 2024

12 MSK Attorneys Named to the 2024 Edition of Southern California *Super Lawyers*  
January 10, 2024

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

9 MSK Partners Selected As "Outstanding IP Practitioners" in the *World Intellectual Property Review* Leaders 2023  
Directory  
July 7, 2023

MSK Practices and Attorneys Recognized in *Chambers USA* 2023 Guide  
*Chambers USA*, June 1, 2023

15 MSK Attorneys Named to the 2023 Edition of Southern California *Super Lawyers*  
January 10, 2023

Alesha M. Dominique, Eleanor M. Lackman and Karin Pagnanelli Recognized in *World Trademark Review 1000*  
*World Trademark Review 1000*, March 10, 2022

16 MSK Attorneys Named to the 2022 edition of Southern California *Super Lawyers*  
January 20, 2022

Emma Luevano and Karin Pagnanelli Named to *Profiles in Diversity Journal's* 2021 "Women Worth Watching" List  
*Profiles in Diversity Journal*, November 19, 2021

MSK Attorneys Recognized in *Managing IP's* 2021 "IP Stars" List  
June 2021

Alesha Dominique, Eleanor M. Lackman and Karin Pagnanelli Named to *WTR 1000's* 2021 list of "Top Trademark  
Professionals"  
*World Trademark Review* , February 12, 2021

14 MSK Attorneys Named to the List of 2021 Southern California *Super Lawyers*  
January 21, 2021

MSK and Attorneys Recognized in *Managing IP's* 2020 "IP Stars" List  
May 2020

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los angeles  
t 310.312.2000  
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MSK Attorneys Named to the List of 2019 *Southern California Super Lawyers*  
January 30, 2019

MSK Recognized as a 2018 "Top-Tier Firm" by the *Legal 500*  
May 30, 2018

Karin Pagnanelli Named to *The Recorder's* 2017 List of "Women Leaders in Tech Law"  
October 2, 2017

Karin Pagnanelli and Marc Mayer Named to *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2017 "Most Influential Intellectual Property Attorneys" List  
August 14, 2017

MSK and Attorneys Recognized in *Legal 500* United States 2017 Edition  
May 31, 2017

Karin Pagnanelli and Emily Evitt Named Among the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* Most Influential Women Lawyers  
April 24, 2017

MSK Attorneys Named to the 2017 List of *Super Lawyers*  
January 20, 2017

## media mentions

MSK Highlighted in *Law360* for Representation in Grand Theft Auto IP Suit  
*Law360*, August 27, 2025

Karin Pagnanelli Mentioned in *Law360* for SweeGen Client Win  
*Law360*, May 24, 2022

MSK's Victory Mentioned in *Law360*, *Daily Journal*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, and *Ars Technica*  
May 17, 2017

Karin Pagnanelli Named a *BTI Client Service All-Star* for 2017  
February 16, 2017

Karin Pagnanelli Highlighted in *Los Angeles Business Journal's* "Entertainment Law Roundtable"  
February 6, 2017

Karin Pagnanelli, Marc Mayer, Emily Evitt and Daniel Kohler Mentioned in *Law360*  
July 6, 2016

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp Recognized as Leading Law Firm by The Legal 500 2015 USA Guide!  
July 2015

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

Mitchell Silberberg Listed as a California Powerhouse by Law360  
July 2014

The Legal 500 United States 2014 Edition  
June 2014

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

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

Frackman and Pagnanelli Selected by *LABJ* for "Who's Who in Intellectual Property Law"  
November 1, 2012

*The 2012 Legal 500 USA Guide* Recognizes MSK Attorneys and Intellectual Property and Tax Practice Groups  
Among the Nation's Best  
June 18, 2012

Russell Frackman and Karin Pagnanelli Named Among Top 75 IP Litigators in California  
April 26, 2012

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

*The 2011 Legal 500 USA Guide* Recognizes MSK Attorneys and Intellectual Property and Tax Practice Groups  
Among the Nation's Best  
June 9, 2011

Karin Pagnanelli Named One of the "Top 100 Women Lawyers" and "Top 75 Women Litigators in California" by  
*Daily Journal*  
May 12, 2011

24 Named to 2011 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List  
January 25, 2011

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

29 Chosen to 2009 Southern California Super Lawyers List  
January 30, 2009

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f 310.312.3100

new york  
t 212.509.3900  
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33 Chosen to 2008 Super Lawyers Lists  
November 21, 2008

*The Legal 500* Ranks MSK Among "Top Firms" and Partners Among "Leading Lawyers"  
June 17, 2008

Karin Pagnanelli Named one of the "Top 50 IP Lawyers Under 45" by *IP Law & Business*.  
May 1, 2008

MSK Home to 23 Southern California Super Lawyers for 2008  
January 30, 2008

*The American Lawyer* Recognizes MSK Litigators  
June 2002

## client alerts

Heckman v. Live Nation: Ninth Circuit Hold Mass Arbitration Clause to Be Unconscionable  
*MSK Client Alert*, November 11, 2024

## events & speaking engagements

2025 Games Industry Law Summit  
September 3, 2025

Red Flags in Your Terms and Conditions  
May 14, 2025

Legal Radar: USA  
Games Industry Law Summit Vilnius 2024  
September 4, 2024

Collective and Non-Human Creativity  
More Than Just a Game Stanford 2024  
March 1, 2024

Video Game Law Conference Tokyo  
November 1-2, 2023

AI Deconstructed  
2023 Games Industry Law Summit  
September 7, 2023

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Arbitration Clauses in the Video Game Industry: Best Practices in the Digital-Based Marketplace  
June 9, 2023

Rogers Revisited: Balancing Brand Owner Interests and Content Creators' First Amendment Rights Under the Lanham Act  
October 12, 2022

Games Industry Law Summit Vilnius 2022  
September 7-9, 2022

Games Industry Law Summit Vilnius 2021  
September 16, 2021

Vetting in the Virtual World  
April 22, 2020

Games Industry Law Summit Vilnius 2019  
May 2, 2019

Games Industry Law Summit Vilnius 2018  
May 3-4, 2018

Games Industry Law Summit Vilnius 2017  
April 27-28, 2017

Right of Publicity and Intellectual Property  
May 18, 2015

Clearing Up Matters of Clearance  
June 24, 2009