

DEBORAH DROOZ
Cal Bar # 133355
1910 West Sunset Blvd., Suite 740
Los Angeles, CA 90026
(O) 323.900 _____
(M) 323.337.2092
deb@droozlegal.com

OVERVIEW:

Extensive experience in First Amendment, intellectual property and business litigation, with special expertise in defamation and privacy law. Has successfully represented individual and corporate clients in dozens of libel, false light and misappropriation actions. Advises art and entertainment industry clients, corporations and members of the media on First Amendment issues, intellectual property, and transactional matters. Notable clients include Anschutz Entertainment Group, Mylan N.V, Wynn Resorts, Ltd., Martha Stewart, Kevin Costner, Rodney Dangerfield, Berry Gordy, Aretha Franklin, Mimi Rogers, The Teamsters Union and former president of Brazil, Lula da Silva.

PRECEDENT-APPELLATE VICTORIES:

Has prevailed on appeal on numerous occasions, including:

- *Star Editorial v. Dangerfield*, 7 F.3d 856 (9th Cir. 1993) (Public figure libel plaintiff overcomes shield law defense to obtain allegedly “confidential” sources in defamation action.)
- *Gordy v. New York Daily News*, 95 F.3d 829 (1996) (Public figure defamation plaintiff prevails in personal jurisdiction challenge by New York-based daily.)
- *Styne v. Stevens*, 78 Cal.App.4th 17 (2000) (Talent agent prevails in Talent Agencies Act battle with celebrity client.)
- *Benasra v. Marciano*, 92 Cal.App.4th 987 (2001) (Libel plaintiff successfully argues that he is not bound by arbitration provision in licensing agreement.)
- *Steam Press Holdings, Inc. v. Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers Union. Local 996.*, 302 F.3d 998 (9th Cir. 2002) (Union defendant overturns multimillion dollar slander verdict by demonstrating lack of actual malice in statements concerning employer.)

OTHER NOTABLE APPELLATE VICTORIES:

- *Meyers v. Tempesta*, D060825, Fourth Appellate District (Div. 1) (2013) (Public figure plaintiff prevails on appeal on issues of defamatory meaning and privilege.)

- *Alexander Haagen III v. Saks & Company* (9th Cir., 2005) D.C. No. CV-00-13251-JFW (Real property owner plaintiff reverses grant of summary judgment in a contract dispute with Saks Fifth Avenue.)
- *Krown Towers v. David LaChapelle Studio, Inc.*, No. B217526 Second Appellate Dist. (Div. 5) (2010) (Court reverses trial court's denial of filmmaker's anti-SLAPP motion, finding that plaintiff's business suit interferes with free speech.)
- *Stephen A. Wynn v. Joseph Raymond Francis*, No. B245401, Second Appellate District (cert denied, Sept. 10, 2014) (Public figure plaintiff prevails on issues of privilege and actual malice in a defamation litigation.)
- *Anschutz Entertainment Group v. Snepp, KNBC, et al*, No. B206789, Second Appellate District (Div. 5) (June 17, 2009) (Corporate plaintiff prevails on all dispositive issues raised in anti-SLAPP motion in slander action arising from KNBC news broadcast.)

COURT AND BAR ADMISSIONS:

Nationwide experience; has been admitted to practice before:

- California Court of Appeal
- California Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeal, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

ADJUNCT PROFESSORSHIP:

Adjunct professor of defamation and privacy law at Southwestern University School of Law since 2001. Lectures for the school's Biederman Institute Entertainment Law's LLM program.

CERTIFIED APPELLATE MEDIATOR:

Certified mediator for California Court of Appeals since 2011.

PEER RECOGNITIONS:

- 2018: Best Lawyers In America (litigation)
- 2017: Best Lawyers In America (litigation/First Amendment)
- 2015: Best Lawyers In America (litigation/ First Amendment)

- 2014: Best lawyers In America (litigation)

EMPLOYMENT:

- October 2017 to present: *Pisanelli Bice, PLLC* (of counsel)
- April 2009 to October 2017: *Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, Schreck, LLP* (partner)
- April 1999 to April 2009: *Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, LLP* (of counsel)
- September 1995 to March 1999: *Bronson, Bronson & McKinnon, LLP* (senior associate)
- December 1991 to September 1995: *Langberg, Leslie & Gabriel, LLP* (associate)
- September 1988 to December 1991: *Hayes, Hume, Petas & Langberg* (associate)

- September 1988 to December 1991: *Hayes, Hume, Petas & Langberg* (associate)
- 1984-1986: Contributing Editor for *L.A. Weekly*
- 1982-1984: reporter, *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*

PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:

- "Lawsuit May Leave Jurors Dazed and Confused," author, *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, April 22, 2016
- "How Copyright Today Has Lost Its Way," author, *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, November 18, 2015
- "Avatars, Apps and Aggregation: New Technologies Shake Up Media Law Again," Moderator, 11th Annual Biederman Entertainment & Media Law Conference, January 16, 2014.
- "Defamation in 2013 Tests Well-Settled Rules," author, *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, December 18, 2013
- Rethinking Pro Bono Practice," speaker, UCLA School of Law, October 3, 2008
- Mealey's Anti-SLAPP Conference, speaker, 2003-2004
- "Licensing and Clearances in the Television Industry," lecturer, Beverly Hills Bar Association, Entertainment Industry Division, 1997
- Richard Jewell's Rights," author, *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, November, 1996

LEGAL EDUCATION: AND BACKGROUND:

Juris doctor degree from Southwestern University School of law in 1987.

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND PRO BONO ACTIVITIES:

Board member and legal committee chair for Homeless Healthcare Los Angeles; Counsel for *Capital & Main*, publication branch of LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy).