

Susan A. Grode

Partner

Los Angeles – Century City Office

+1.310.788.4410

susan.grode@katten.com



Practices

Intellectual Property
Trademark Licensing and Strategy

Industries

FOCUS: Entertainment and Media
Entertainment and Media Transactions
Family Offices
Private Client Services
Technology

Education

JD, University of Southern California Gould School of Law
BFA, Cornell University

Bar Admissions

California

Community Involvements

California Women's Law Center, Founder and Former President
Center Theater Group at the Los Angeles Music Center, Vice President and Board of Directors
Hollywood Women's Political Committee, Founder
International Women's Media Foundation, Advisory Board
The Center for the Study of Political Graphics, Board of Directors
USC School of the Dramatic Arts, Trustee

Susan Grode helps media and entertainment clients across a range of issues, including intellectual property, licensing, merchandising, online productions and mobile games, social networking, and media law. Recognized as one of the nation's leading legal authorities on domestic and international animation, licensing and merchandising, Susan negotiates business opportunities, drafts and reviews agreements, and advises on all entertainment law matters.

A leading authority on animation, licensing and merchandising

Susan is recognized as one of the leading authorities on domestic and international animation, licensing, and merchandising. She represents major motion picture and animation studios, production toy companies, and the creators of a host of popular animated television series and feature films. She also represents award-winning independent filmmakers, producers and financiers from development and funding of projects through to distribution. Many of her clients are at the cutting edge of production and exploitation of entertainment content and programming, from traditional viewing formats to online, VOD, SVOD, applications and the latest digital innovations

Before launching her private legal practice, Susan served as vice president at Harry N. Abrams, Inc., one of the world's largest art book publishers. Susan's experience in the publishing industry gives her a deep level of insight into the industry. She currently works with publishing and comic book companies, best-selling authors, developers, and publishers and distributors of some of the most popular video games and apps. Susan also serves as legal advisor to *Ms. Magazine*.

Susan founded and was the first president of the California Women's Law Center, and she is a current UCLA Entertainment Law Symposium board member. She has been recognized by *The Daily Journal* and *The Best Lawyers in America* as one of the top IP lawyers in California.

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Susan is also actively involved in the arts and entertainment community. A founding patron of the Kirk Douglas Theater, Susan is also a board member of the Ojai Playwright's Conference, President of the Board of Craft in America, advisory council member of the International Women's Media Foundation, advisory board member to Women in Animation, past board member of the Ms. Foundation for Women, past president and board member of Judy Chicago's Through the Flower arts organization, past trustee of the USC School of Dramatic Arts, and a former trustee of the College of Arts, Architecture, and Planning of Cornell University. She is the recipient of the Vesta Award for contributions to the arts in Southern California, an Outstanding Role Model Award from Girls Incorporated and the Ms. Foundation Gloria Award for women's activism.

Recognitions

- *Best Lawyers in America*
 - Entertainment Law - Motion Pictures and Television, 2008–2020
- *Daily Journal*
 - Top 25 Intellectual Property Attorneys, 2005, 2014, 2017
 - Top 25 Intellectual Property Portfolio Managers, 2015
- The Legal 500 United States
 - Recommended Attorney, 2017–2019
- Ms. Foundation
 - Woman of Vision and Action, 2006
- Super Lawyers
 - Southern California, 2005–2020
- *Variety*
 - "Woman of Impact," 2012

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- Women's Building and Of Girls Inc.
 - Honoree

News

- Katten Attorneys Named to 2020 Southern California Super Lawyers List (January 16, 2020)
- Katten Praised in The Legal 500 United States 2019 Guide (June 11, 2019)
- Super Lawyers List Recognized 13 Katten Attorneys in Southern California (January 30, 2019)
- Katten Distinguished by *The Legal 500 United States* (June 14, 2018)
- Katten Attorneys in Southern California Honored on Super Lawyers List (February 16, 2018)
- Katten Distinguished by *The Legal 500 United States 2017* (May 31, 2017)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2017 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List (March 9, 2017)
- Susan Grode and David Halberstadter Named as Two of California's Top Intellectual Property Attorneys (August 17, 2016)
- 79 Katten Attorneys Selected for *Best Lawyers in America*® 2017 (August 15, 2016)
- Nineteen Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2016 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List (January 20, 2016)
- 91 Katten Attorneys Recognized in *Best Lawyers in America*® 2016 (August 17, 2015)
- Susan Grode Named a Top IP Portfolio Manager by *Daily Journal* (April 22, 2015)

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- Twenty-One Katten Attorneys Recognized as Top Attorneys in Southern California (January 21, 2015)
- 85 Katten Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers in America*® 2015 (August 18, 2014)
- Partners Susan Grode and David Halberstadter Named Top Intellectual Property Attorneys by *Daily Journal* (April 9, 2014)
- Twenty-One Katten Attorneys Recognized on Southern California *Super Lawyers* List (February 10, 2014)
- 83 Katten Attorneys Lauded in *Best Lawyers in America*® 2014 (August 15, 2013)
- Twenty-Two Katten Attorneys Included on 2013 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List (January 21, 2013)
- Katten Partner Susan A. Grode Named to *Variety's* 2012 Women's Impact Report (October 5, 2012)
- 80 Katten Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers in America*® 2013 Guide (August 24, 2012)
- 75 Katten Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers in America*® 2012 Guide (September 12, 2011)
- Partners Susan Grode, Gail Title Named Among Top IP Attorneys in California (April 6, 2011)
- 70 Katten Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers in America*® 2011 (August 9, 2010)
- Three Katten Attorneys Named Among California's Top Intellectual Property Attorneys (April 7, 2010)
- 66 Katten Attorneys Named to 2010 List of *Best Lawyers in America*® (August 5, 2009)
- Katten's Gail Migdal Title and Susan Grode Named Among California's Top Intellectual Property Attorneys (April 24, 2009)
- Katten Selected as Finalist for AMEC's Media & Entertainment Counsel of the Year Awards (January 5, 2009)

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- 50 Katten Attorneys Named to 2009 List of *Best Lawyers in America*® (September 23, 2008)
- Katten Names Michael Hobel Co-Chair of Entertainment and Media Practice (August 4, 2008)
- 46 Katten Attorneys Named to 2008 List of *Best Lawyers in America*® (October 31, 2007)
- Susan Grode to Receive Woman of Vision and Action Award from Ms. Foundation for Women (April 27, 2006)

Publications

- The FTC's Native Advertising Settlement With Lord & Taylor Highlights the Commission's Enforcement Priorities Under Its Recently Issued Guidance (March 31, 2016)
- 2009 Year-End Intellectual Property Issues Advisory (December 2009)

Presentations and Events

- 36th Annual UCLA Entertainment Symposium (March 9–10, 2012)
- 34th Annual UCLA Entertainment Symposium (February 26–27, 2010) | Moderator | *Not your Gutenberg Printing Press - Content Empowered by Technology - The Promise of Digital to Transform Book Publishing*
- 2006 Tax Institute (January 23–25, 2006) | Panelist | *Creative Properties*