

David Halberstadter Named 2021 Top Intellectual Property Lawyer by *Daily Journal*

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Los Angeles Litigation partner David Halberstadter was named to the *Daily Journal's* 2021 list of "Top Intellectual Property Lawyers," recognizing him for the impact of his work on recent significant cases to the intellectual property industry and the development of law.

For more than 35 years, David has worked as an advisor and litigator with a focus on intellectual property disputes, representing major clients in the entertainment industry that include ViacomCBS, Showtime Networks, Lions Gate Entertainment, Starz Entertainment, Amblin Partners, and Entercom Communications.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the entertainment industry struggled while litigation continued.

"The industry got severely depressed at the start of the pandemic as theaters shut down. The questions then were about force majeure contract clauses," David explained.

During the pandemic, David successfully represented Starz as lead counsel against a persistent plaintiff who argued in four federal court complaints that the company's television crime drama series "Power" infringed on his novels. In September, David also wrote about problems that arise in creative adaptations of factual accounts, including the difficulty in showing a writer's speculation about what happened when developing television or motion picture scripts based on depictions of real events.

"A big part of my behind-the-scenes job is to find creative ways to signal speculation in scripts to avoid this issue, and it's a lot of fun," David said.

[2021 Top Intellectual Property Lawyers: David Halberstadter.](#)

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