



# Michael S. Hobel

Partner and Chair, Entertainment and Media Transactions

Entertainment and Media

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**Michael Hobel is recognized as a leading authority in the legal profession on entertainment transactions across digital, television and film. Described by clients as "a tremendous thought partner who provides practical, sophisticated advice," Michael is trusted by entertainment and media companies to represent them on deals involving some of the entertainment industry's most successful properties for more than 25 years.**

## A leading dealmaker in the entertainment and media industry

As the head of Katten's Entertainment and Media practice, Michael has extensive experience representing entertainment and media companies in complex transactions involving valuable entertainment and intellectual property rights and assets. *Chambers USA* reports that clients call him "incredibly effective in driving deals to closure and note his superb overall legal and business expertise." Michael's clients include motion picture studios, free, pay and cable television networks, streaming services, Internet and digital media companies, production and distribution companies, financiers, video game companies, rights holders and investors. Michael also advises industry executives on employment contracts, individual talent on agreements for their services on film, television and music products, and companies on management and protection of their trademark and copyright assets.

Michael's work relates to all stages of development, production and exploitation of entertainment product. Michael is particularly interested in deals that involve the convergence of entertainment and technology, and he has represented some of the most innovative companies in deals that break new ground in deal structures and business models that have enabled his clients to be first movers in entertainment development, production and delivery.

## Representative Experience

- Represent major television syndication company in television series business.

## Practices

- Corporate
- Intellectual Property
- International
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Trademark Licensing and Strategy
- Trademarks and Trademark Litigation

## Industries

- Entertainment and Media
- Entertainment and Media Transactions
- Entrepreneurial Ventures
- Sports and Sports Facilities

## Education

- JD, New York University School of Law
- BA, Harvard University, *with honors*

## Bar Admissions

- California

## Community Involvements

- Beverly Hills Bar Association, Entertainment Law Section and Intellectual Property, Internet and New Media Section
- Los Angeles County Bar Association, Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law Section
- State Bar of California, Intellectual Property Law Section
- USC Gould School of Law - Beverly Hills Bar Association, Institute on Entertainment Law and Business, Planning Committee

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- Represent international media company in many major entertainment and multimedia transactions and ventures in the United States. Includes successful \$500 million tender offer for publicly held entertainment company and sale of Silicon Valley multimedia company.
- Represent major motion picture studio in theatrical motion picture and television series production and distribution matters.
- Represent video game company in acquisition of video game development company and interactive games rights to a motion picture franchise property.
- Represent national pay television network in motion picture and series finance, production and licensing matters relating to wide variety of projects.
- Represent video game company in video game development, production and exploitation matters.
- Represent owner of newspaper, magazine and media properties in entertainment and licensing matters.
- Represent diversified entertainment company in proposed acquisition of a major motion picture studio.
- Represent leading reality television production company in production of network reality television series.
- Represent major independent television production company in television movie, mini-series and series businesses over the last 15 years.
- Represented leading sports organization in acquisition and exploitation of exclusive broadcast rights to soccer World Cup in 2002 and 2006.
- Represent professional sports league and its licensing operation on motion picture and television projects.
- Represent Spanish-language television network in joint venture and technology transactions, sports and other program licensing, and production matters.
- Represent national basic cable network in numerous development, production and licensing matters.
- Represent leading toy company in variety of licensing and technology matters. Also advise with respect to exploitation of client's highly successful home video product based on its key properties.

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- Represent major motion picture studio in variety of matters, including a long-term international home video services agreement for its motion picture library.

## Recognitions

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*Recognized or listed in the following:*

- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Entertainment Law – Motion Pictures and Television, 2010–2025
- *Chambers USA*
  - Media & Entertainment: Transactional, 2009–2024
- *Daily Journal*
  - California's Top 10 Entertainment IP Lawyers
- *Hollywood Reporter*
  - Power Lawyers List, 2013, 2019, 2020
- *Los Angeles Business Journal*
  - Who's Who in Law
- *Los Angeles Magazine*
  - "Super Lawyers"
- *Super Lawyers*
  - Southern California, 2007, 2009–2025
- *The Legal 500 United States*
  - Recommended Attorney, 2017–2019, 2021–2024
- *Variety*
  - Dealmakers Impact Report, 2011, 2012
  - Legal Impact Report, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020–2022

## News

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- Katten Attorneys Selected for 2025 Southern California Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (March 14, 2025)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized as *Best Lawyers®* and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®* Award Recipients (August 15, 2024)
- Katten Highly Ranked in Legal 500 United States 2024 (June 12, 2024)

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- Katten Receives High Marks in *Chambers USA* Guide 2024 (June 6, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished by *Best Lawyers*® (August 17, 2023)
- Katten Lauded in The Legal 500 United States 2023 (June 9, 2023)
- Katten Boosts Rankings in *Chambers USA Guide* 2023 (June 1, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Selected to 2023 Southern California Super Lawyers List (January 11, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers*® (August 18, 2022)
- Katten Awarded Top Ranking in Structured Finance: Securitization in The Legal 500 United States 2022 (June 8, 2022)
- Katten Ranked Leading Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2022 (June 1, 2022)
- *Variety's* 2022 Legal Impact Report Recognizes Five Katten Entertainment Partners (April 21, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2022 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List (January 27, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (August 19, 2021)
- Katten Receives High Marks in Derivatives, M&A and Securitization in The Legal 500 United States 2021 Guide (June 10, 2021)
- Katten Boosts Rankings in *Chambers USA* 2021 (May 20, 2021)
- Katten Entertainment and Media Attorneys Named to *Variety's* 2021 Legal Impact Report (April 19, 2021)
- Katten Attorneys Selected to 2021 Southern California Super Lawyers List (January 21, 2021)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished as Top Legal Talent in the 2021 *Best Lawyers in America* and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* Lists (August 20, 2020)
- Katten Assists in Farasis Energy's Restructuring, Listing on SSE STAR Market and Its Strategic Cooperation With Daimler (July 20, 2020)
- Five Entertainment Attorneys Named to *Variety Magazine's* 2020 Legal Impact Report (July 15, 2020)
- Katten Rated Top Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2020 (April 23, 2020)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2020 Southern California Super Lawyers List (January 16, 2020)

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- Katten Praised in The Legal 500 United States 2019 Guide (June 11, 2019)
- Katten Lauded Top Ranked Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2019 (April 25, 2019)
- Michael Hobel and Scott Cutrow Profiled in *Variety's* 2019 Legal Impact Report (April 17, 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 Rated as Leading Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2018 (May 3, 2018)
- Katten Attorneys in Southern California Honored on Super Lawyers List (February 16, 2018)
- Katten Selected as the "Go-To" Firm for Sports Law in Chicago (July 27, 2017)
- Katten Distinguished by *The Legal 500 United States* 2017 (May 31, 2017)
- Katten Recognized as Leading Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2017 (May 30, 2017)
- Michael Hobel Featured in *Variety's* 2017 Legal Impact Report (April 4, 2017)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2017 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List (March 9, 2017)
- 79 Katten Attorneys Selected for *Best Lawyers in America*® 2017 (August 15, 2016)
- *Chambers USA* 2016 Distinguishes 22 Katten Practices and 50 Attorneys (May 27, 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)
- Katten Attains 22 Practice and 58 Attorney Rankings by *Chambers USA* 2015 (May 20, 2015)
- Michael Hobel and Melanie Tomanov Featured in *Variety's* 2015 Legal Impact Report (April 14, 2015)
- Twenty-One Katten Attorneys Recognized as Top Attorneys in Southern California (January 21, 2015)

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- 85 Katten Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers in America*® 2015 (August 18, 2014)
- *Chambers USA* 2014 Distinguishes 24 Katten Practices and 54 Attorneys (May 23, 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)
- *Chambers USA* 2013 Recognizes 24 Katten Practices and 49 Attorneys (May 24, 2013)
- Partner Michael Hobel Named to *The Hollywood Reporter's* 2013 Power Lawyers List (May 23, 2013)
- Twenty-Two Katten Attorneys Included on 2013 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List (January 21, 2013)
- 80 Katten Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers in America*® 2013 Guide (August 24, 2012)
- Partner Michael S. Hobel Profiled in *Variety's* Legal Impact Report (June 28, 2012)
- *Chambers USA* 2012 Distinguishes 19 Katten Practices and 45 Attorneys (June 7, 2012)
- Partner Michael S. Hobel Profiled in *Variety's* 2011 Dealmakers Impact Report (December 6, 2011)
- 75 Katten Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers in America*® 2012 Guide (September 12, 2011)
- Katten Earns Recognition for 17 Practices and 44 Attorneys in 2011 *Chambers USA* Guide (June 10, 2011)
- Katten Named AMEC's Entertainment Law Firm of the Year (December 21, 2010)
- 70 Katten Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers in America*® 2011 (August 9, 2010)
- Katten Lands 16 Practices and 39 Attorneys in *Chambers USA* Guide (June 24, 2010)
- 66 Katten Attorneys Named to 2010 List of *Best Lawyers in America*® (August 5, 2009)
- Katten's Gail Migdal Title and Michael Hobel Named Among 100 Most Influential Attorneys in Entertainment by *The Hollywood Reporter* (July 29, 2009)

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- Katten Lands 14 Practices and 37 Attorneys in *Chambers USA* Guide (June 12, 2009)
- Katten Selected as Finalist for AMEC's Media & Entertainment Counsel of the Year Awards (January 5, 2009)
- Katten Names Michael Hobel Co-Chair of Entertainment and Media Practice (August 4, 2008)

## Publications

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- Supreme Court Holds Trademark License Not Terminated Upon Rejection in Bankruptcy (May 23, 2019)
- 2009 Year-End Intellectual Property Issues Advisory (December 2009)

## Presentations and Events

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- 2019 Institute on Entertainment Law and Business (October 26, 2019) | *Planning Committee*
- Institute on Entertainment Law and Business (October 17, 2015) | *Sponsor*
- 2013 Institute on Entertainment Law and Business (October 5, 2013) | *Sponsor*
- USC Gould School of Law – Beverly Hills Bar Association 2012 Institute on Entertainment Law and Business (October 27, 2012) | *Sponsor*