



Stanton "Larry" Stein

 Los Angeles

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PRACTICE AREAS

Media & Entertainment

Litigation & Trial

Apparel & Fashion

EDUCATION

University of Southern California (J.D., 1969, Editor of *The Law Review*, Winner of Moot Court Competition, and recipient of an academic scholarship)

University of Southern California (B.A. with Honors, 1966, Phi Beta Kappa and recipient of a debate scholarship)

Stanton ("Larry") Stein is a partner and the head of Russ August & Kabat's Media & Entertainment group. Larry's clients include actors, writers, directors, producers, music artists, high-net-worth individuals, entertainment guilds, talent agencies, personal and business management companies, independent production companies, and video game companies.

Larry is widely known in the entertainment industry for his work taking on Hollywood studios. Throughout the last decades, Larry created legal theories for challenging the film and television accounting practices of vertically integrated studios and media conglomerates through litigation. He is literally the father of vertical integration accounting lawsuits. His efforts have changed the face of talent and rights holders' contract negotiations with studios, networks, and their affiliated production companies, seeking to more evenly allocate revenue to profit participants including actors, directors, writers and producers. Larry has brought countless lawsuits on behalf of his clients against companies that were self-dealing on licensing fees and a variety of other revenue streams. In addition to his groundbreaking litigation in the profit participation space, Larry has also fought to establish copyright protection for formats in reality television, bringing the seminal lawsuit in that area of law.

Larry also has a long history of bringing defamation, right of privacy, and right of publicity actions against publications and private individuals while dealing with the media and governmental agencies. He has secured dozens of confidential settlements and retractions.

Larry is a frequent author and lecturer in the field of entertainment law. He served as an adjunct Professor of Entertainment Law at USC Gould School of

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Law and Stanford Law School and has lectured at Yale Law School, Harvard Law School, and UC Berkeley School of Law.

Regularly called on by journalists and legal scholars for comment regarding legal issues facing the entertainment industry, he has been quoted in such publications as: *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Buzzfeed News*, *Law360*, *IPWatchdog*, *USA Today*, *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, *Deadline*, *Variety*, *Billboard*, and many more.

Throughout his career, Larry has been recognized by leading legal, business, and entertainment industry publications and organizations for the successes he has achieved on behalf of his clients.

Larry is ranked as a “Top Media and Entertainment Litigator” by Chambers USA, named a “Legal Legend” by *The Hollywood Reporter*, was honored in *Variety*’s 2023 and 2024 Legal Impact report, recognized as one of *Billboard*’s “Top Music Lawyers” since 2020, and has repeatedly been named a “Southern California Super Lawyer” since 2004. The *Daily Journal* named Larry one of the “100 Most Influential Lawyers in California” while the *Los Angeles Business Journal* profiled him in “Who’s Who in LA Law.” California Lawyer featured him as a top five “A-list Entertainment Lawyers” and *Los Angeles Times*’ The Envelope Magazine named him a 2024 “Business of Entertainment Visionary.” Nationally, Larry has been recognized as a “Best Lawyer” by *The Best Lawyers in America* and in “Lawdragon 500: Leading Lawyers in America.” Larry has received the “Entertainment Lawyer of the Year” awards from both the Beverly Hills and Century City Bar Associations, as well as the ACLU Foundation’s “Pro Bono Civil Liberties Award.”

RECENT MATTERS

The following is just a sample of Larry’s ongoing and recently resolved matters:

- Larry represents **Drake** in several litigation matters, including the recently resolved trademark infringement claim brought against him by Condé Nast in connection with his parody cover of Vogue magazine and a series of other parodies he released ahead of *Her Loss*, his album with 21 Savage. Larry is also advising and defending Drake in numerous lawsuits filed against him in connection with his guest appearance at Travis Scott’s 2021 Astroworld concert. He defended Drake in an interference case regarding the documentary Black Ice and advised in

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connection with cases stemming from a shooting at the Muzik nightclub after the 2015 OVO Fest.

- Larry represents and provides ongoing advice to **Simon Cowell and Syco Entertainment** on a variety of matters related to his television program *America's Got Talent* and new television formats currently in development. An *AGT Live* show in Las Vegas was successfully launched in late 2021.
- Larry represents **Trancas International Films**, the producers of the highly successful *Halloween* motion picture franchise, in connection with contractual and profit participation issues.
- Larry is representing **Jeff Franklin**, the creator of the classic sitcom *Full House* and *Fuller House* in litigation against his former co-executive producer for interference with his business relationship with Warner Brothers.
- Larry represents artist and musician **Post Malone** in various litigation and confidential matters.
- Larry is defending Laguna Beach plastic surgeon Dr. Arian Mowlavi in a civil case against social media personality Chalene Johnson related to statements by Johnson on various social media platforms. Johnson filed an anti-SLAPP motion that Larry defeated. The matter is on appeal.
- Larry represents the Trustees of **The Carroll Hall Shelby Trust** in a number of litigation matters, including a recently resolved a dispute against a trust beneficiary regarding asset valuation. Larry assists the Trustees with an array of matters that pertain to protecting Shelby intellectual property and continuing Mr. Shelby's legacy.
- Larry represented **Harry Shearer, Rob Reiner, Christopher Guest** and **Michael McKean**, co-creators of the iconic "mockumentary" film *This is Spinal Tap*, in litigation against Vivendi and its subsidiaries Universal Music Group and StudioCanal. The case involved complicated copyright termination and accounting issues as well as cutting-edge legal issues regarding co-creators' rights to terminate their copyright grants and regain ownership of their trademarks and other intellectual property rights.
- Larry represented music industry icon **Scott ("Scooter") Braun** and his companies, including a high profile litigation case involving a former business venture with claims for, among others, breach of contract, fraud, and misappropriation of trade secrets.
- Larry advised artists **Roddy Ricch, Smilez** and **Donis Winter** in public and personal matters including real property and copyright infringement, respectively.

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- On behalf of **Todd Moscovitz**, Larry filed a lawsuit against Theory Entertainment, LLC d/b/a 300 Entertainment for breach of contract and a judicial declaration regarding Moscovitz's ownership of stock in the company he co-founded.
- Larry defended **Little White Dog, Inc.** and **Cristina Ehrlich**, a world-renowned stylist for some of Hollywood's most recognized celebrities, in a civil action brought by a former employee.
- Larry successfully defended TV producer **Brian Graden** and his production company, Brian Graden Media, in a case brought by Ravier Carrington, a man claiming sexual misconduct and theft of ideas against Graden, the late Bray Grey, Paramount and Viacom. Larry helped establish that the allegations were supported by fabricated evidence, leading to the court's dismissal of the action with prejudice and an award of attorneys' fees and costs. Carrington was found to be a vexatious litigant and the U.S. Attorney successfully prosecuted him for perjury in the case.
- On behalf of famed plastic surgeon and television reality star **Dr. Terry Dubrow**, Larry filed a defamation action against Dr. Dubrow's former patient's lawyer for various false statements made in the press. Stein defeated the defendant's anti-SLAPP motion and then their appeal.
- Larry represented comedian **Iliza Shlesinger** in a class action suit brought by men for allegedly being turned away from Shlesinger's interactive Girls Night In show that occurred in LA in late 2017, in alleged violation of the Unruh Act.