

CORPORATE

ROB FREEMAN
PROSKAUER
Georgetown

He's crafted deals for Warner Bros. Discovery, Cox Communications, NFL Media, Tiger Woods' TMRW Sports and FanDuel. Plus, Freeman has advised multiple clients on sports betting-related deals. His mentees have gone on to senior positions at HBO, Turner, Hulu, the NBA and MLB. **Buzzword I'd banish** "Synergies." **My guilty TV pleasure** "Outer Banks."

TALENT

MATT GALSOR
GREENBERG GLUSKER
Columbia

The canny dealmaker scored a strategic deal with Warner Bros. for Tom Cruise while client Chris Hemsworth entered talks for Amazon movie *Crime '07* and signed a producing deal with Ben Affleck and Matt Damon's Artists Equity. Vin Diesel set up a

new *Riddick* movie; J.K. Rowling will exec produce a new Harry Potter series for Max; James Cameron is in production on his next *Avatar*; and David Fincher is about to close on his next project.

If I were a TV lawyer, I'd be ... "Dan Fielding (from *Night Court*). He's even better than Saul Goodman, I think."

TALENT

JONATHAN GARDNER
COHEN GARDNER
University of Virginia

Gardner has plenty of prestige filmmakers on his roster (Bong Joon Ho, Ryūsuke Hamaguchi), but it's the deal he architected for Ryan Coogler's untitled reunion film with Michael B. Jordan that is legacy-making. The package — "an epic, monumental, game-changing director's deal," Gardner calls it — saw the winning bidder, Warner Bros., agree to revert the project's copyright back to Coogler in 25 years.

Buzzwords I'd banish "It's a no-brainer."

TALENT

BRUCE GELLMAN
HANSEN JACOBSON
UC Berkeley

He negotiated overall deals for *The Diplomat* creator Debora Cahn, *Locke & Key* showrunner Meredith Averill and Mike Daniels (Peacock's upcoming *Fight Night*), while continuing to advise heavy hitters like Dan Fogelman and Jennie Snyder Urman on their overall pacts. He also represented Ilene Chaiken and *Tracker* creator Ben Winters for development projects.

Power lunch spot "Euro Caffé (owners Mayda and Vartan Kemanjian are the best)."

TALENT

GREGG GELLMAN
YORN LEVINE
Loyola Law School

After client Alex Edelman's one-man show *Just for Us* concluded its global tour, Gellman set up a deal for an HBO special. He also lined up a second season

of *Bookie* for Sebastian Maniscalco, while queuing up another special and a just-renewed Netflix series, *Tires*, for stand-up Shane Gillis, a deal shaped with partner Jared Levine. But his roster isn't entirely a laughing matter. He also reps Lulu Wang (*Expats*) and *Bluey* creator Joe Brumm. **How I celebrate closing a deal** "I always thought it would be fun to have a giant cowbell in the office to ring. But I just move on to the next deal."

TALENT

RICK GENOW
GOODMAN GENOW
Harvard

From Wes Ball's *Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes* (\$300 million at the global box office) to Michael Showalter's *The Idea of You* (50 million Prime viewers in its first two weeks), Genow helps clients navigate the theatrical and streaming landscape. Talent like Jacob Elordi (co-repped with partner Carlos Goodman) and producers like Eric Kripke (*The Boys*) also keep him busy. Oh, and he reps the Duke and Duchess of Sussex and their Archewell banner. **Power lunch spot** "The Grill. It's timeless."

LITIGATION

BOBBY GHAJAR
COOLEY

Southwestern
He's defending Meta against creatives in their seismic IP suit over AI. And so far, he appears to be winning, securing dismissals of most of the creatives' claims, including their core infringement theory, with the judge calling the writers' argument "nonsensical." His other work in the past year included obtaining the dismissal of a trademark infringement lawsuit against Kim Kardashian's skin-care line. **My guilty TV pleasure** "Power Slap. It's like a train wreck I can't stop watching."

TALENT

LEV GINSBURG
GINSBURG DANIELS KALLIS
UCLA

He negotiated Timothée Chalamet's deal to play Bob Dylan in James Mangold's *A Complete Unknown* for Searchlight. Tom Brady roast standout Nikki Glaser toplined a hit Max stand-up special, *Someday You'll Die*, and continues as host and exec producer of *FBoy Island* spinoff *Lovers and Liars*. **The most surprising budget item I've fought over** "A streaming platform's policy against reimbursing its own executives for their subscriptions to that platform."

LITIGATION

LEAH GODESKY
O'MELVENY
Columbia

Repping Keshia Rose Sebert in the defamation case brought by Lukasz "Dr. Luke" Gottwald (she accused him of rape in 2014), Godesky convinced New York's top appeals court to overturn a previous ruling, ultimately leading to a

THR'S LEGAL LEGENDS

These five veteran attorneys have repped just about every bold-faced name in town, from moguls to princesses to romance novelists and even a clutch of Kardashians

DAVID FOX

MYMAN GREENSPAN

Before going to law school, Fox had blue-sky dreams of being a surfer. "Law school was just a way to delay a decision about my life," says the attorney who started in transactional real estate before settling on entertainment law. Turned out to be an auspicious delaying tactic. Today, he represents some of the biggest names in the business, including James Wan (*Saw*), Dan Lin (head of film at Netflix) and David Koepp (*Presence*).



Fox



Kump



Nessim



Nelson



Sager

MICHAEL KUMP

KINSELLA HOLLEY

Kump has represented everyone from the Duchess of Sussex to the Kardashians, handling everything from trademark disputes (a Florida cosmetics company vs. Kim, Kourtney and Khloé) to a defamation lawsuit between some other sisters (that'd be Samantha Markle's complaint against his client Meghan Markle over some unkind words during an Oprah interview).

PETER NELSON

NELSON DAVIS

If all he had done was represent Peter Jackson — for the past 35 years — he might still make this list. But Nelson has been a go-to litigator for scores of stars, renegotiating David Duchovny's *X-Files* deal (which made him the highest-paid one-hour TV actor of his time) as well as multiple pay raises for nearly the entire cast of *The West Wing*.



Peter Nelson (left), in 1983, on a sailing trip with a promising young director named Peter Jackson.

RON NESSIM

BIRD MARELLA

Nessim was happily working on white-collar criminal defense cases and specializing in health care fraud when, in 1997, he helped two transactional lawyers repping Danielle Steel in a dispute with NBC. There was no turning back. "I started getting into it," he says of his first taste of entertainment. Since then, he's repped Dick Wolf, J.J. Abrams and Shonda Rhimes, among others.

KELLI SAGER

DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE

Fresh from being recruited to her current firm, Sager, a warrior for the First Amendment, fought for media access during the 1994 O.J. Simpson murder trial, and a few years later pushed for expanded public access to the Clint Eastwood courtroom battle with former girlfriend Sondra Locke (her argument later prevailed at the California Supreme Court).

LEGAL LEGENDS HONOR ROLL Ivy Kagan Bierman, Daniel Black, John Branca, Skip Brittenham, Harold Brown, John Burke, Joseph Calabrese, Melanie Cook, Jay Cooper, Scott Edelman, Patti Felker, Sam Fischer, John Frankenheimer, Michael Gendler, Cliff Gilbert-Lurie, Patricia Glaser, Allen Grubman, Tom Hansen, Barry Hirsch, Jim Jackoway, Craig Jacobson, Neville Johnson, Dale Kinsella, Ken Kleinberg, Linda Lichter, Mickey Mayerson, Kenny Meiselas, Sky Moore, Marcy Morris, Bob Myman, Jeanne Newman, Don Passman, Daniel Petrocelli, Lee Phillips, Bruce Ramer, Ira Schreck, Robert "Bobby" Schwartz, Marty Singer, Larry Stein, Alan Wertheimer and Ken Ziffren.