

Daily Journal

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Entertainment Law

Editors' Note

At a time when digital disruption defines the entertainment industry, the *Daily Journal* brings back an entertainment supplement to profile the key deal-makers and litigators who are rapidly reshaping the movie, music and game businesses. New viewing habits are driving mergers and overhauling distribution models in Hollywood, while the music industry continues to undergo

its own transformation, thanks to digital services like Pandora and Spotify. Mobile devices have chipped away at the dominance of traditional video game systems, as they put more games in the hands of more players than ever before. In this new world, technology giants and new investors from overseas are keen to join forces with content providers, and everyone is looking to California's best entertainment lawyers to guide them along the way. As you read in this issue, we think you'll be impressed with their work.

CALIFORNIA'S TOP ENTERTAINMENT LAWYERS

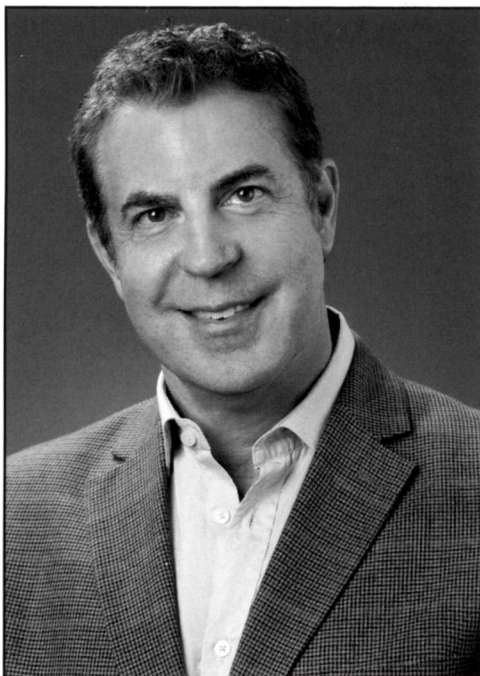
Robert A. Darwell

FIRM

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SPECIALTIES

Corporate



A prominent motion picture deal negotiator representing studios and production companies, Darwell has recently worked on the financing and distribution of Oscar-nominated films such as "Her," "American Hustle" and "Dallas Buyers Club." In a key deal this year, Darwell represented Alazraki Films, which produced the television series "Los Escorpiones" for Netflix Inc., the website's first original Spanish language series.

Also, Darwell finished up in August work on financing "The Moon and the Sun," a \$40 million film to be distributed by Paramount Pictures Corp. that is scheduled for April release. One deal aspect was getting equity financing from Chinese investors.

According to Darwell, international financing of domestically made movies

has changed from looking at countries with tax incentives to funding films through international private equity investors.

In this and a couple other aspects of film financing and distribution, China has prominently entered the picture. Darwell pointed out that in just the last couple of years there has been Chinese strategic investment in media companies as well as advances being paid for distribution rights in China.

As for other film industry trends, Darwell said that while it is harder than ever for an independently made film to get theatrical release, "The number of alternative distribution platforms and methods is increasing," such as digital streaming sites and more original feature films on television.

— Matthew Blake