



→ Thomas Glen Leo

Partner

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Thomas Leo is a partner in the Entertainment, Technology and Advertising Practice Group in the firm's Century City office.

Areas of Practice

Thomas focuses on entertainment finance, secured transactions and commercial law.

Thomas has extensive experience representing motion picture studios, production companies, distributors, lenders and cofinanciers in all types of motion picture and television financing transactions, including multipicture production, financing and distribution arrangements; revolving credit production finance facilities; rights acquisition financings; complex secured distribution arrangements; television license financing and securitization facilities; entertainment-related merger and acquisition financings and working capital lines of credit; complex intercreditor and interparty arrangements; and entertainment finance generally.

Thomas also represents corporate clients outside the entertainment industry in their borrowings under syndicated secured and unsecured credit facilities.

Honors

Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers*, 2007-2021

Southern California Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers*, 2006-2018

Top Leading Media and Entertainment Lawyers, *Chambers & Partners*, 2006-2015

The U.S. Best of the Best: Technology, Media and Communications, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011

Experience

Transactional Experience

Syndicated secured and unsecured credit facilities regarding clients both within the entertainment industry and in other industries as borrowers, ranging from \$100 million to \$500 million.

Film fund transactions representing U.S. major studios, senior lenders, mezzanine financiers and film funds

Multipicture production, financing and distribution arrangements between production companies and distributors (including major U.S. studios), with production funded through bank funding, distributor funding and various combinations of the two, including related financing, secured transactions and intercreditor

arrangements

Financings of mergers and acquisitions of entertainment companies through senior bank debt, issuances of senior notes and other financings

Production financing revolving lines of credit for film production companies

Rights analyses for acquisitions of major motion picture rights

Commercial law aspects of strategic entertainment transactions

Articles

- Russian Cinema
An Economic Overview
JUST, 11.01.2009
- The Dirty Dozen - Part 2
Chain-of-title issues that may arise in the acquisition of rights for the production or development of a motion picture, video game or work dependent upon rights in copyright.
Daily Journal, 09.29.2009
- The Dirty Dozen - Part 1
Chain-of-title issues that may arise in the acquisition of rights for the production or development of a motion picture, video game or work dependent upon rights in copyright.
Daily Journal, 09.22.2009
- Chain of Title Review Is a Major Hurdle for Film Investors
07.20.2006

Corporate & Securities Law Blog Posts

- "Sheppard Submits Comments to Main Street Loan Program," April 17, 2020

Media Mentions

Sheppard Mullin Represents Diodes in Its \$400 Million Acquisition of Pericom Semiconductor
Corporate Counsel, 09.04.2015

Sheppard Mullin Lands Entertainment Group
01.27.2003

Speaking Engagements

Panel Presentation: Entertainment and Intellectual Property Issues in Bankruptcy Beverly Hills Bar Association, June 25, 2015 (Speaker)

"An Overview of Motion Picture Co-Production Deals: China-Korea Co-Production Treaty," Busan International Film Festival, October 5, 2014

2014 Bloomberg International Film & TV Finance Summit Los Angeles, CA, March 19-20, 2014 (Conference Co-Chair, Panel Moderator, Presenter)

2013 Bloomberg International Film & TV Finance Summit New York, NY, December 2-3, 2013 (Conference Co-Chair, Panel Moderator, Presenter)

2013 Bloomberg International Film & TV Finance Summit Los Angeles, CA, March 21-22, 2013 (Conference Co-Chair, Panel Moderator, Presenter)

2012 Bloomberg International Film & TV Finance Summit Los Angeles, CA, March 22-23, 2012 (Conference Co-Chair, Panel Moderator, Presenter)

Events

Breakfast With Your Finance and Bankruptcy Lawyers

Intellectual Property Issues in Bankruptcy: Assumption and Assignment, Distinctions Between Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks, Distressed Acquisitions and How to Protect Your IP
Sheppard Mullin New York, 06.11.2013

Practices

Entertainment and Digital Media

Industries

Entertainment and Digital Media

Education

J.D., University of Southern California, 1978

S.B. (Computer Science and Engineering), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1975

S.B. (Management), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1975

S.B. (Mathematics), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1975

Admissions

California