

TOP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS in California for 2016

When we're listening to pre-1972 music on rotation in our smartphones or reaching for a ketchup bottle at lunch, intellectual property doesn't come to mind. But these are just a few examples of the work behind the California attorneys we chose on our list for their efforts protecting the intellectual property belonging to companies of all sizes across the country and around the world.

As technology makes vast improvements year after year across the industry spectrum, intellectual property attorneys — litigators and patent prosecutors — are rolling up their sleeves to stay ahead of the game. In California, established Silicon Valley and booming Silicon Beach have created global hubs for such innovation to take place in on-demand services, social media, health care, consumer technology and other various fields. But the fight to protect patents, copyrights and trademarks can start on a local court level and move to the appellate courts, while also heading to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the U.S. International Trade Commission and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Intellectual property attorneys face many hurdles as they try to protect the branding of companies for consumers and a range of venues for those who want to protect their innovations. The attorneys in this issue took those challenges head-on and pushed technological progress forward.

—The Editors

Jeffrey D. Goldman

FIRM

Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP

CITY

Los Angeles

SPECIALTY

Copyright and trademark litigation



Buckle your seatbelt, adjust your tray table, plug your headset into your armrest — and listen to the sounds of copyright infringement, Goldman successfully argued to a federal judge in Los Angeles on behalf of numerous major record and music publishing companies.

In April, U.S. District Judge George H. Wu agreed that in-flight audio provider Global Eagle Entertainment Inc. willfully infringed the copyrights of more than 4,500 songs under the Universal Music Group umbrella.

On July 21, the parties told Wu they were near a settlement on claims at one point valued at hundreds of millions of dollars. *UMG Recordings Inc. v. Global Eagle Entertainment Inc.*, 14-CV03466 (C.D. Cal., filed May 5, 2014)

“The airlines and their suppliers and the music companies have come to grips to a new reality,” Goldman said, referring to advances in copyright law dealing with digital on-demand music. “Airlines are now paying royalties to keep the music flowing.”

Goldman is a veteran of high-stakes music industry skirmishes. For his success for record makers in 2001 when the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed lower court rulings against Napster Inc. for copyright infringement, he was awarded an honorary gold record by the Recording Industry Association of Amer-

ica. *A&M Records Inc. v. Napster Inc.*, 239 F.3rd 1004 (9th Cir. 2001)

In the UMG Recordings case, Goldman again was lead counsel in groundbreaking copyright infringement litigation. His successful summary judgment motion involved novel issues of international copyright law, complicated by airlines’ flight routes across multiple jurisdictions.

“It was one of the more gratifying wins,” he said. “The case was so complex because of the international aspects. Copyright law is territorial, and many of these issues had not been dealt with before. Whose laws govern when a plane flies to a new country?”

Goldman not only persuaded Wu that willful copyright infringement and state law infringement were involved, he also defeated the defendants’ multiple counterclaims.

“Bottom line is you can’t use the work unless you have permission,” he said. “This is a basic concept and applies whether the media is new or old, physical or intangible.”

— John Roemer