



Albert J. Soler

Partner

Intellectual Property | Entertainment
Media | Sports | Litigation
Corporate Transactions & Business

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BIOGRAPHY

Albert J. Soler is a Partner in the New York office of Scarinci Hollenbeck in the Entertainment and Intellectual Property practice. Albert brings extensive experience to a variety of practice areas and provides effective and cutting-edge legal representation to clients in entertainment, music, film, television, media, sports, fashion, advertising, intellectual property, and litigation. Albert is a frequent speaker and legal analyst in the ever-evolving fields of entertainment, celebrity, and intellectual property and has been featured in Wired, NPR News, Fox News, and other entertainment news outlets and publications.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & ENTERTAINMENT

Albert's practice covers a wide range of intellectual property and entertainment disciplines, including entertainment and commercial litigation, artificial intelligence, domestic and international trademark registration and enforcement, copyrights, music royalty disputes and recovery, recording and band agreements, sponsorship agreements, proceedings before the United States Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO), licensing and merchandising, and more. Albert's clients transact in a variety of industries, including sports, entertainment, music, fashion, television, and film. Albert has had the pleasure of representing notable clients, including:

- Brian Westbrook of the Philadelphia Eagles
- Grammy-nominated music producer and artist Havoc of the Infamous Mobb Deep
- Fredro Starr and the seminal hip-hop group Onyx
- Erick Sermon of hip-hop legends EPMD
- The Captain Paul Watson Foundation and Neptunes Navy
- Music producer Leshan "DJ L.E.S." Lewis
- Hip-hop artists Big Noyd and Cormega
- Pop singer and Beat Street Entertainment artist Bella Lysee

- Music festival producer Old Music Group
- Hip-hop pioneer E-40
- Social media's Vookum Media
- Tyrone "T-Money" Kelsie of Yo! MTV Raps fame
- America's Got Talent Winner Bianca Ryan
- MMA fighters Jonavin "Spider" Webb and Eddy "Taino Warrior" Torres
- Galileo Films
- Celebrity designer Brian Lichtenberg
- Premier affordable housing leader The Michaels Organization
- Twin products innovators Stuff 4 Multiples LLC
- Public figure and entrepreneur Terri Matthews
- Luxury wheel manufacturer VMR
- Luxury jewelry designer Anne Sisteron Fine Jewelry
- Clothing designer Urth Apparel
- Bira 91 Beverages
- Collectibles leader The Raab Collection
- Deep Concepts Media Group
- The Lost Boyz (Mr. Cheeks, Spigg Nice, and Pretty Lou)

LITIGATION

Albert regularly counsels clients in a variety of litigation matters including dispute resolution, federal and state lawsuits, negotiation, arbitration, mediation, trademark & copyright litigation, opposition and cancellation proceedings before the Trademark Trial & Appeal Board, defamation and right of publicity actions, product disparagement, commercial litigation, and more. Albert has represented clients in numerous corporate, commercial, and securities matters including breach of contract disputes, investigations by government and regulatory agencies, corporate compliance, and more.

CORPORATE TRANSACTIONS & BUSINESS

Albert has represented clients in a wide variety of commercial,

business transactions, and corporate transactions and counsels a variety of individuals, organizations, companies, start-ups, non-profits, and entrepreneurs in all aspects of business operations from formation, drafting of agreements, drafting contracts, compliance, equity financing, commercial transactions, licensing & merchandising deals, artist agreements, recording agreements, and more.

LEGAL ANALYST

Albert is a legal media analyst and has appeared on television and radio programs, including appearances on Fox 29's Good Day Philadelphia and Pedro Biaggi's live radio show "Encendio" from Washington D.C. Albert is also a frequent speaker on expert panels, symposiums, and a variety of industry events, including The Knowledge Group's presentation entitled "Mitigating Risks of Defamation Litigation: Best Practices for Internal Investigations" and The University of Pennsylvania Law School's Journal of Business Law Symposium entitled "Innovation and Legal Frontiers." Albert has also been featured in Wired, NPR News, and other entertainment publications and news outlets.

INDUSTRY ENDEAVORS

In addition to his legal practice, Albert is the founder of Beat Street Entertainment (BSE), record label Beat Street Music Group (BSMG), and the upcoming "Got Beats® Music & Entertainment Conference," a conference and seminar addressing the law and business of music. Albert is an avid music producer and is dedicated Mr. Soler has been to supporting artists and creatives in all aspects of entertainment, music, film, and television.

Albert received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1997 and his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2003. Albert is bilingual (English and Spanish) and is a member of the New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania bars. Albert is admitted in the U.S. District Courts for the Southern District of New York, the Eastern District of New York, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and the District of New Jersey.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Entertainment and Intellectual Property

- (United States District Court, Southern District of New York) Represented and defended client, a legendary musician, against federal copyright infringement and contributory copyright infringement centered around the musician's famous logo and distinctive moniker appearing on the client's merchandise and related items.

- (United States District Court, Southern District of New York) Represented prominent west coast hip hop star in an action against an entertainment entity asserting copyright infringement, federal unfair competition, California unfair competition, and trade dress infringement claims related to the defendant's unauthorized use of the client's copyrighted assets.

- (United States District Court, Southern District of New York) Represented prominent entity and the rights holder of two prominent and high grossing motion pictures against a worldwide distributor asserting breach of contract, copyright infringement, unjust enrichment, an accounting, and declaratory judgment.

-(Supreme Court, New York) Represented and defended client, a prolific hip hop group, in a management dispute wherein the purported manager asserted breach of contract, conversion, and quantum meruit against the group.

- (United States District Court, Eastern District of New York) Represented client, a well-known clothing manufacturer, in a case against a competitor alleging trademark infringement, unfair competition, and trademark dilution stemming from the defendant's use of a confusingly similar trademark.

- (United States District Court, Southern District of New York) Represented prominent beer manufacturer in suit for declaratory judgment of non-infringement of trademark against prominent restaurant chain in response to the restaurant chain's cease and desist letter communicated to the client asserting trademark infringement claims.

- (United States District Court, Eastern District of New York) Represented client, a well-known clothing manufacturer, in a case against a competitor alleging trademark infringement, unfair competition, and trademark dilution stemming from the defendant's use of a confusingly similar trademark.

- (United States District Court, Southern District of New York) Represented and defended client, a branding and marketing conglomerate, against a claims of copyright infringement by a photographer related to the use of an image.

- Negotiation of play and show live stage rights and related agreements on behalf of producers and writers;

- Negotiation of agreements with play and show composers including licensing and recording agreements;

Commercial Litigation and Other

- (AAA Arbitration) Represented client, a long-time employee and director of a company, against the company for breach of contract, wrongful termination, retaliatory discharge, and related causes of action.

- (JAMS Arbitration) Represented industry-leading affordable housing, military, and student housing developer in arbitration against a counterparty related to a purchase agreement and the purchase by the client of various properties. The statement of claim asserted claims for breach of contract, misappropriation of sales proceeds, specific performance, and breach of the implied duty of good faith and fair dealing.

Entertainment Transactions

- Product and Merchandise Agreements: Regularly represent clients, including renown artists, in the negotiation of licensing, branding, and sponsorship deals related to the manufacture, sale, and distribution of custom sneakers and other products.

- Recording Agreements: Regularly represent artists in the negotiation and finalization of a “360” and other recording agreements related to the recording and commercialization of music, as well as merchandising, concert tours, licensing, and related endeavors.

- Touring Agreements: Regularly represent clients and artists with all aspects of touring, performance, appearance, and concert agreements and collaborations.

- Band Agreements: Represent clients in connection with band and group agreements, including provisions related to trademark and intellectual property use, revenue splits, publishing splits, and related provisions.

- Distribution Agreements: Represent artists and musicians in connection with the distribution of sound recordings by national and worldwide music distributors and record companies.

- Licensing Agreements: Represent clients in connection with all types of licensing agreements with respect to music, name and likeness, and related use of artists’ trademarks, copyrights, other intellectual property.

- Producer Agreements: Regularly represent clients in the negotiation and drafting of producer agreements, including publishing splits, royalties, recoupable costs, and related provisions in the ever-changing entertainment landscape.

- Television Shopping and Production Agreements: Represent artists and television personalities in connection with shopping agreements, television and film production agreements, distribution agreements, and related endeavors.

- Defamation and Invasion of Privacy: Represent clients in connection with all forms of defamation, libel, and slander, as well as representation of clients in connection with invasion of privacy concerns and violations.

- Trademark and Copyright Enforcement: Regularly represent and assist clients with the enforcement and protection of clients’ intellectual property rights throughout the world, including cease and desist communications and take down notices.

- Website Policies and Terms and Conditions: Represent clients in the formulation of terms and conditions of use related to clients’ online presence, as well as counseling clients regarding the privacy concerns and data collection.

- Commercial Business Transactions: Regularly represent clients, manufacturers, and other entities in connection with commercial sales transactions, dispute resolution, drafting of

operation and related agreements, and related commercial and business matters.

EDUCATION

- University of Pennsylvania Law School (J.D., 2003)
- University of California, Los Angeles (B.S., 1997)

BAR ADMISSIONS

- New York
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania

U.S. District Courts:

- Southern District of New York
- Eastern District of New York
- Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- District of New JerseyPennsylvania