



## Media & Entertainment

For decades, Winston has filled a unique niche in the media and entertainment industry, and we continue to be at the forefront of today's most important and challenging cases. Our interdisciplinary team advises some of the world's most prominent industry players—studios, production companies, entertainers, artists, athletes, other celebrities, and other sector participants—in connection with the disputes and deals that are moving this dynamic industry forward.

### Key Contacts

[Michael Elkin](#)

[Krishnan Padmanabhan](#)

[Becky Troutman](#)

### Areas of Focus

#### Capital Markets, M&A, Private Equity & Finance

Winston has a robust and sophisticated deal team that regularly handles cross-border transactions for major and independent studios and private equity firms in the global media and entertainment sector. We are a leader in special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) transactions. Since 2016, we have worked on more than 40 SPAC IPOs raising aggregate gross proceeds of US\$14+B, and 20 business combinations with an aggregate enterprise value of US\$26+B, including representing SPACs with a focus on media and entertainment in their IPOs and business combinations. Beyond M&A and private equity transactions, we have experience in major studio feature film finance, as well as the structured financing of television programming.

## First Amendment Law

The First Amendment is a cornerstone of the media and entertainment industry. Our lawyers fiercely protect our clients' rights in matters involving freedom of speech and of the press, including defamation, commercial disparagement, and trade libel matters. Our reputation as a trial lawyers' firm has led to prominent roles in high-stakes federal litigations and arbitrations involving the First Amendment, including trying the nation's largest defamation case in recent years.

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## Intellectual Property & Entertainment Litigation

Our team is widely recognized for our litigation and counseling experience related to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, including a series of landmark victories for internet service providers (ISPs) and other digital media companies—wins that continue to shape the law governing technology-driven media content. We also handle disputes related to patent, trade dress, and advertising, as well as issues relating to film and television distribution agreements and licensing, anti-piracy and copy protection, and rights of publicity/owners' rights.

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## Licensing, Contracts & IP Transactions

Participants in the media and entertainment sector require sophisticated counsel to assist them in protecting, leveraging, and expanding their innovative products, content, and services. We negotiate and draft IP licenses and transfer agreements; evaluate IP portfolios and related due diligence activities in connection with commercialization and corporate transactions; and provide strategic guidance on optimal structures for IP transactions. We also handle marketing, advertising, talent, production, and supplier agreements, as well as other contracts for the development, distribution, and streaming of content and ancillary products.

[Learn More](#)

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## Related Capabilities

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Intellectual Property

Trademark Litigation, Prosecution & Brand Protection

Copyright-Infringement Litigation

IP Licensing & Due Diligence

Capital Markets

Mergers & Acquisitions

Private Equity

Finance

## Recent Experience

Secured Settlement for Fox on Brink of Trial in High-Profile Defamation Litigation Brought by US Dominion Voting Systems

Illinois Supreme Court Remands Case To Cook County Circuit Court

## Related Insights & News

## **RECOGNITIONS**

Winston Attorneys Featured on the 2025 *Lawdragon* Leading Global Entertainment, Sports & Media Lawyers List

MARCH 7, 2025

## **RECOGNITIONS**

Winston Merits 98 Tier 1 Rankings in the 2025 Edition of Best Law Firms®

NOVEMBER 7, 2024

## **RECOGNITIONS**

Winston Attorneys Featured on 2024 *Lawdragon* 500 X – The Next Generation List

JUNE 28, 2024

## **RECOGNITIONS**

Winston Merits 100 Tier 1 Rankings, Named Sports Law “Law Firm of the Year” in 2024 Edition of Best Law Firms®

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

## **SPONSORSHIP**

Winston & Strawn Sponsors 2023 Copyright Society Annual Meeting

JUNE 11-13, 2023

## **CLIENT ALERT**

“You keep using that word; I do not think it means what you think it means”: Supreme Court’s *Warhol* Fair Use Decision Reforms “Transformativeness”

MAY 26, 2023

## **CLIENT SUCCESS**

Winston Acts as Lead Trial Counsel for Fox News and Fox Corp. in US Dominion Voting Systems Defamation Cases, Settling Matter on Brink of Trial

APRIL 18, 2023

## **IN THE MEDIA**

LeElle Slifer Addresses New Claims Filed by Megan Thee Stallion Against 1501 Certified Entertainment

APRIL 14, 2023

## **BLOG**

Spotlight on Regulatory Cross Border: European Commission Bans TikTok From Official Devices

MARCH 13, 2023

**SPONSORSHIP**

Winston & Strawn Sponsors 2023 Copyright Society Midwinter Meeting

FEB. 9-11, 2023

**BLOG**

Federal Court Closes the Book on Publishers' Attempted Merger

JANUARY 20, 2023

**IN THE MEDIA**

Adam Foslid Joins Winston & Strawn in New Miami Office

JULY 21, 2022