

## John Berlinski Recognized as a Best Media and Entertainment Lawyer in California by Forbes

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Partner John Berlinski is named among *Forbes'* inaugural list of America's Best-in-State Lawyers.

Mr. Berlinski is recognized alongside only two other honorees in the Media & Entertainment practice and among only 23 lawyers in California.

Regarded as one of Hollywood's most respected lawyers, he is regularly at the forefront of some of the most significant legal issues in the entertainment industry that are making national headlines. He is well known for his successful representation of Scarlett Johansson in her groundbreaking lawsuit against The Walt Disney Company concerning the release of her film *Black Widow*. He also obtained the largest award in the history of profit participation arbitration on behalf of David Boreanaz, Emily Deschanel, and Kathy Reichs, the actors and author-producer behind the popular and long-running television series *Bones*.

He recently represented Ms. Johansson in her dispute against OpenAI and its CEO, Sam Altman, and currently represents Brad Pitt and his company in highly publicized multi-jurisdictional lawsuits against Angelina Jolie and others concerning the parties' interests in the highly regarded French winery, Château Miraval.

View the full list of honorees [here](#).

## Nicole Rodriguez Van Dyk Named a Top Women Lawyer for the Second Consecutive Year

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Bird Marella partner Nicole Rodriguez Van Dyk has again been recognized in the *Daily Journals* Top Women Lawyers list for 2025. Ms. Van Dyk, a highly sought after litigator who specializes in

representing clients in parallel criminal, civil, and regulatory proceedings, was first selected as a Top Women Lawyer by the *Daily Journal* in 2022 and again in 2024.

The *Daily Journal*'s profile on Ms. Van Dyk highlights several of her recent victories, including securing a non-custodial sentence for her client, a former pharmacy owner, in a health care fraud case with alleged damages in excess of \$60 million and a complete dismissal of all charges for clients facing insurance fraud and kickback charges.

View Ms. Van Dyk's *Daily Journal* profile [here](#) (subscription required).



## Record Number of Bird Marella Partners Honored by Chambers USA 2025

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Chambers and Partners, internationally regarded as one of the primary arbiters of achievement in the legal profession, once again recognized Bird Marella as one of the leading litigation firms in the nation, praising the firm as “highly rated for its trial capabilities.” Chambers notes that Bird Marella “fields an impressive array of experienced litigators and former prosecutors” that regularly “carr(y) out industry-leading work.”

The *Chambers USA* guide continues to rank Bird Marella among the top firms in the **Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations** (Band 1 Tier), **Litigation: General Commercial: The Elite**, and **Media & Entertainment: Litigation** categories.

Name Partner **Ekwon Rhow** made an impressive debut at **Band 2** in the **Litigation: Trial Lawyers (USA – Nationwide)** category, a highly-selective list made up of 66 trial attorneys across the country. Notably, Managing Partner **Paul Chan** and Partner **Timothy Yoo** were both ranked for the first time in **Litigation: General Commercial (California)**.

Bird Marella received several significant advancements in this year's rankings, including partner **Ariel Neuman** rising to **Band 3** in the **Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations** category. The firm's rankings in the **Litigation: General Commercial: The Elite** and **Media & Entertainment: Litigation** categories both moved up to **Band 3**.

Clients and peers commended the firm, saying:

*“Bird Marella is creative, tenacious and entrepreneurial.”*

*"They are a top-notch litigation boutique firm with really brilliant lawyers."*

*"The firm is stacked with experienced litigators."*

*"The firm is extremely adept, experienced and sophisticated in its field of work."*

Congratulations to our esteemed group of honorees:

**Law Firm Defense (USA – Nationwide)**

Mark Dooks (Band 1)

**Litigation: Trial Lawyers (USA – Nationwide)**

Ekwan Rhow

**Litigation: General Commercial (California)**

Ekwan Rhow (Band 1)

Mark Dooks

Paul Chan

Timothy Yoo

**Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations (California)**

Gary Lincenberg (Band 1)

Benjamin Gluck

Ariel Neuman

Nicole Rodriguez Van Dyk

**Media & Entertainment: Litigation (California)**

John Berlinski

Ronald Nessim

Bird Marella's complete *Chambers USA* profile and rankings are available [here](#).

## Bird Marella Wins for Plaintiffs in Southern District of New York Bench Trial

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Bird Marella partner Oliver Rocos and senior associate Darren Patrick won a contractual dispute in a bench trial in the Southern District of New York on behalf of their third-party logistics company client, which services apparel and home furnishings retailers nationwide.

The case began as a relatively minor disagreement over the appropriate storage rate, but quickly escalated into a hard-fought dispute involving more than \$1 million in warehousing charges tied to goods valued between \$5 million and \$10 million. The defendants further asserted counterclaims valued at over \$15 million.

In a ruling issued this week, the court awarded Bird Marella's client over \$1.6 million in damages. Mr. Rocos and Mr. Patrick also successfully defeated all the defendant's counterclaims.

## Julia Cherlow Recognized as Los Angeles Business Journal's Woman of Influence for Second Consecutive Year

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Partner Julia Cherlow is named among the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2025 list of Women of Influence: Attorneys.

Ms. Cherlow is recognized for her "exceptional legal skills and achievements" as well as her "exemplary leadership" both within and outside her legal practice. Highly regarded in entertainment litigation, she has earned accolades from Variety and The Hollywood Reporter for her representation of A-list talent and entertainment companies in high-stakes, high-profit disputes, including multiple active arbitrations involving complex compensation and profit participation claims. She has also earned recognition from the *Daily Journal* in their Top Women Lawyers and

[Top Defense Verdicts](#) lists for her significant trial and business litigation success.

Notably, she is a key member of a team of Bird Marella lawyers representing Brad Pitt in complex, multi-jurisdictional litigation against Angelina Jolie concerning the ownership of Château Miraval, the renowned French estate and home of the globally popular Miraval rosé. She also represents numerous confidential clients in entertainment, including Emmy-winning showrunners, prominent actors, and top-tier producers, in multimillion-dollar disputes over marquee film and television projects.

In addition to her legal practice, Ms. Cherlow devotes significant time to non-profit work, including as a member of the Boards of Directors for Western Center on Law and Poverty and the LA Dance Project, the latter of which is a nod to her background as a former ballerina.

Click [here](#) to view the full issue.



## Gary Lincenberg Honored with Daily Journal's California Lawyer of the Year Award

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Name partner Gary Lincenberg along with partner Michael Landman have been recognized among the best lawyers in California by the *Daily Journal*.

In the 2025 issue of the prestigious California Lawyer of the Year (CLAY) Awards, the *Daily Journal* honors lead counsel Mr. Lincenberg and co-counsel Mr. Landman for their notable legal defense work in the three-month San Francisco jury trial of *USA v. Lynch & Chamberlain*. Following a decade-long cross-border battle, Mr. Lincenberg and his team won an acquittal on all counts for Mr. Chamberlain in what prosecutors dubbed California's largest criminal fraud trial ever.

Mr. Lincenberg shares with the *Daily Journal*:

*"I am grateful for this honor because it recognizes the ten years of hard work it took to win against highly-skilled prosecutors who had unlimited resources. We hope that defendants who believe in their innocence will be brave enough to fight for their freedom even when the odds are against them and other executives and accountants have had verdicts rendered against them."*

The award adds to the impressive list of recognition stemming from the landmark victory. The trial win was awarded Impact Case of the Year (*Benchmark Litigation*), Most Important Court Case of the Year (*Global Investigations Review*), and earned Mr. Lincenberg several honors, including Lawyer of the Week (*Law360*) and a finalist spot for Attorney of the Year at the 2025 California

Legal Awards.

Click [here](#) to view the 2025 CLAY honorees (subscription required).



## Gary Lincenberg Named Finalist for Attorney of the Year at 2025 California Legal Awards

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Name partner [Gary Lincenberg](#) is one of three finalists for Attorney of the Year at the 2025 California Legal Awards.

Mr. Lincenberg is being recognized for his historic and monumental victory in *USA v. Michael Lynch and Stephen Chamberlain*, a criminal fraud prosecution relating to Hewlett Packard's \$11 billion purchase of British software company Autonomy. Prosecutors called the case "California's largest criminal fraud trial ever."

In June 2024, following a decade-long, cross-border battle, and three-month jury trial, Mr. Lincenberg and his team won an acquittal on all counts for Mr. Chamberlain. The case was watched closely, with extensive coverage in major publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *BBC*, and *Law360*. The landmark win was honored as the Most Important Court Case of the Year at the 10th Annual *Global Investigations Review Awards* held in Washington, D.C., and as *Benchmark Litigation's* United States Impact Case of the Year. *Benchmark* named Mr. Lincenberg a finalist for Litigator of the Year, *AmLaw* named him National Litigator of the Week, and the *Daily Journal* named him the Top White Collar Lawyer. For more than a decade, *Chambers USA* has ranked Mr. Lincenberg Band 1 in "Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations."

The winner will be announced at the California Legal Awards on June 25, 2025 in Los Angeles.

View the complete list of finalists [here](#).

Click [here](#) to read Mr. Lincenberg's article and tribute to Stephen Chamberlain, "Eulogy of an Acquittal: 'I am an Innocent Man,'" on Chambers Global Guide.

## Bird Marella Partners Named Among Top Entertainment Lawyers by Variety and The Hollywood Reporter

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Bird Marella partners [John Berlinski](#), [Julia Cherlow](#), [Kimberly Meyer](#), and [Ekwan Rhow](#) have been selected to *Variety's* 2025 Legal Impact Report. The highly regarded list honors entertainment's top litigators and dealmakers representing the most prominent and influential figures in film, television, music, and sports.

*Variety* profiles the firm's public representations which include representing Scarlett Johansson in her high-profile dispute against OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman, in which OpenAI was accused of misappropriating Ms. Johansson's voice. The team also represents Brad Pitt in multi-jurisdictional lawsuits against Angelina Jolie and others concerning the parties' interests in Château Miraval, the renowned French winery.

Additionally, Mr. Berlinski and Ms. Cherlow are named in *The Hollywood Reporter's* Top 100 Power Lawyers list, marking Mr. Berlinski's fifth year of recognition and Ms. Cherlow's debut listing.

The *Variety* profile can be read [here](#) and *The Hollywood Reporter* feature [here](#).

## Bird Marella Secures No Liability Arbitration Ruling for Sun Date LLC in Alleged State Insurance Fraud Qui Tam

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Bird Marella partner [Ron Nessim](#), with senior counsel [Marc Masters](#), successfully defended Sun Date, LLC, the largest date manufacturer and distributor in the U.S., in a state court insurance fraud qui tam case.

A former Sun Date employee, the Relator in the case, alleged in his state court complaint that Sun Date knowingly made false statements in a worker's compensation filing with the intent to defraud him of benefits and he sought millions of dollars in penalties and assessments. Sun Date's defense was that while certain false statements were made, they were the product of mistake and not fraud. Once the Relator was convinced in discovery that Sun Date's defenses were significant, the parties stipulated to move the case from Superior Court to arbitration with stipulated maximums and minimums for both the award and attorney's fees.

After the February 2025 arbitration hearing, the arbitrator recently ruled that Bird Marella's client had no liability.



## **Bird Marella Signs Amicus Brief in Support of Perkins Coie Fighting Back Against Executive Order**

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Bird Marella is proud to sign an amicus brief in support of Perkins Coie LLP in its lawsuit against the recent executive order that unconstitutionally and improperly targets the firm for its representations of certain clients and pro bono work.

Please [click here](#) to read the amicus brief in its entirety.



## **Bird Marella Secures Dismissal for South Korean Media Giants in U.S. Copyright Case**



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Bird Marella partners [Timothy Yoo](#) and [Christopher Jumin Lee](#) obtained dismissal with prejudice on behalf of South Korean media companies SBS, MBC, MBN, and state-owned bank Industrial Bank of Korea (“IBK”) in a copyright-infringement lawsuit concerning the works of South Korean composer Jae-Ho Lee.

The plaintiff alleged that these Korean companies had infringed his U.S. copyright by making Jae-Ho Lee’s music available on their streaming platforms, or by using them in Korean-language YouTube videos. On March 14, 2025, the Honorable Mark C. Scarsi agreed with the defendants’ argument that uploading music to a globally available website such as YouTube was not sufficient to allow a U.S. Federal Court to exercise personal jurisdiction over Korean defendants, and that the plaintiff’s claims against IBK were barred by the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, and dismissed the plaintiff’s claims, with prejudice.

Mr. Yoo and Mr. Lee had [previously obtained dismissal](#) of similar claims against Kakao Entertainment, Genie Music, NHN Bugs, TJ Media, Keum Young, MBC, and TV Chosun in 2022, a decision that was later affirmed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.



## Bird Marella Wins Impact Case of the Year at 2025 Benchmark Litigation Awards

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Bird Marella won Impact Case of the Year at the [2025 Benchmark Litigation Awards](#), earning national recognition for [winning a full acquittal](#) on behalf of client Stephen Chamberlain, Autonomy’s former vice president of finance.

The trial team led by partner Gary Lincenberg included Michael Landman, Ray Seilie, and paralegal Rachel Capata.

Bird Marella [dedicates](#) this award to client and friend Stephen Chamberlain, co-defendant Mike Lynch, co-counsel Chris Morvillo, and several others who tragically lost their lives in short succession in August 2024.

The same trial win was also recognized as the Most Important Court Case of the Year at the 10th Annual Global Investigations Review Awards in Washington, D.C.