

LEE STRAUS

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PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL

Adjunct Professor-of-Law (August 1998 to Present)

I teach two practical, entertainment law courses I developed: *Business and Legal Affairs for Scripted Television Programming and Distribution* and *Business and Legal Affairs for Alternative/Reality-Based Television Programming and Distribution*.

NORTH ROAD COMPANY (44 BLUE PRODUCTIONS & WORDS + PICTURES/FULL DAY)

EVP and Head of Business and Legal Affairs for 44 Blue Productions (May 2023 to August 2025)

Head of Business and Legal Affairs for Words + Pictures (May 2023 to August 2025)

Business and Legal Affairs Consultant (December 2022 to April 2023)

Handled all aspects of the day-to-day business and legal affairs across two different production companies in connection with the development, production and distribution of sports, lifestyle and true crime documentary programming, in addition to live event programming (*The Netflix Cup*, *The Netflix Slam*, *Live From the Other Side with Tyler Henry*, *NFL Honors*, *Academy Awards: Red Carpet Preshow*) being produced for exhibition across all distribution platforms. Responsibilities included the negotiation and drafting of shopping agreements, production services agreements, license agreements, distribution and financing agreements, producer agreements and director agreements, as well as all production-related agreements. In addition, was responsible for drafting various legal documents and providing production legal counsel, inclusive of pre-broadcast clearance of programming (e.g., review the inclusion of third-party intellectual property and trademarks to ensure the uses are legally justified; review for potential defamation and other tort claims) and handling of any third-party claims (pre-litigation).

A+E FACTUAL STUDIO (SIX WEST MEDIA | CATEGORY 6 MEDIA)

Executive Consultant, Business Operations and Strategy (May 2022 to November 2022)

In partnership with the President of the A+E Factual Studio and key stakeholders, evaluated all areas of studio operations (e.g., business and legal affairs, production management, production finance, music, distribution, labor relations and human resources) to recognize and create best practices to implement and maximize strategic goals and revenue, while considering both immediate and long-term perspectives of the A+E Factual Studio.

44 BLUE PRODUCTIONS

Production Attorney for "LA Fire & Rescue" (July 2021 to July 2022)

Provided legal advice on potential risks and issues in connection with the day-to-day production of this docu-follow series for the NBC Network, including, but not limited to, issues related to intellectual property/copyright/trademark, music, and HIPAA compliance, along with handling pre-broadcast clearance review.

NBC ENTERTAINMENT AND UNIVERSAL TELEVISION ALTERNATIVE STUDIO

NBCUNIVERSAL DOMESTIC TELEVISION DISTRIBUTION

Executive Vice President, Business Affairs, Alternative/Reality, Specials & Syndicated Programming (October 2016 to October 2020)

Senior Vice President, Business Affairs (March 2006 to October 2016)

Vice President, Business Affairs (June 2002 to March 2006)

Director, Business Affairs (January 2000 to June 2002)

Oversaw all aspects of the day-to-day business affairs for the development and production for all alternative/reality-based programming, specials and live events for NBC Entertainment and Universal Television Alternative Studio including the Emmy Award-winning *The Voice*, the Emmy-nominated *American Ninja Warrior*, *America's Got Talent*, *Hollywood Game Night*, *Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade* and *The Golden Globe Awards*. In addition, oversaw the

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT (CONTINUED)

day-to-day business and legal affairs for NBCUniversal Domestic Television Distribution, which included *Access Hollywood* and *The Kelly Clarkson Show*. Oversaw and negotiated the acquisition of foreign format/rights deals (e.g., *The Voice*), including the sale of formats created within NBC or acquired for exploitation in foreign territories. Other responsibilities included structuring, driving, and negotiating high-profile talent and executive producer agreements, co-production and joint venture agreements, overall and first look deals and advising on the acquisition and creation of various business opportunities. Over the course of my employment at NBCUniversal, identified and resolved numerous business and legal issues (inclusive of litigation, labor/union, music, and human resources matters) that arose during the development and production of all forms of television programming, including scripted content for linear and non-linear exploitation. Collaborated with all key stakeholders – including production, finance, and creative teams – to strategize, manage and create efficient and effective operational guidelines to improve process, create best practices and ultimately increase revenue.

BUENA VISTA TELEVISION

Director, Business Affairs (October 1999 to January 2000)

Attorney, Business Affairs (February 1997 to October 1999)

Provided business and legal affairs for all aspects of development and production for first-run syndication programming, including talk and game shows. Responsibilities included the acquisition of format rights, including the worldwide phenomenon *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*. Was also responsible for negotiating and servicing the business and legal affairs for the original first-run scripted adaptation of *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*. Other responsibilities included negotiating and drafting talent producer agreements, first-look development deals, interpreting union/guild agreements and determining immigration, intellectual property, and First Amendment issues in connection with scripted and reality/alternative programming.

THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY

Paralegal – Corporate Legal Department (April 1995 to January 1997)

Drafted and coordinated the execution of required court documents relating to the filing of petitions for the approval of minor's employment contracts for all departments throughout The Walt Disney Company.

WALT DISNEY PICTURES AND TELEVISION

Assistant to Counsel – Labor Relations and Immigration Department (November 1993 to April 1995)

In addition to standard assistant duties, I assisted with the hearing of labor grievances with studio personnel and various labor union representatives (e.g., SAG, DGA and I.A.T.S.E.). Drafted non-immigrant visa petitions; researched then current federal immigration law and prepared impact analyses of applicable statutes, regulations, and cases; contacted U.S. and foreign embassies and consulates to coordinate the issuance of non-immigrant visas.

BUENA VISTA HOME VIDEO INTERNATIONAL

Production Assistant (September 1991 to October 1993)

WALT DISNEY PICTURES/TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

Creative Assistant (January 1991 to August 1991)

EDUCATION

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, Stanford, California

- LGBTQ Executive Leadership Program Participant, August 2019

LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, California

- Juris Doctor, May 1996 (Evening Division)
- Bancroft-Whitney American Jurisprudence Award in Trial Advocacy

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles, California

- Bachelor of Arts, Production (School of Cinematic Arts), May 1990

MEMBERSHIPS, AFFILIATIONS AND VOLUNTEER WORK

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Volunteer Temporary Judge, Traffic Court and Small Claims Court (June 2021 to Present)

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

Admitted December 1996

Assistant Presiding Arbitrator, Mandatory Fee Arbitration Program (2017 to Present)

Subject Matter Expert – Mandatory Fee Arbitrator eLearning Training Program (2021 to 2023)

Vice Chair – Committee on Mandatory Fee Arbitration (2017 to 2019)

Committee Member – Committee on Mandatory Fee Arbitration (2013 to 2017)

CALIFORNIA LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Member since 2023 | Member of Intellectual Property Law Section

LGBTQ+ LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES

Member since 2023

LOS ANGELES COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Member since 1996 | Member of Entertainment Law Section

Deputy Chair – Attorney-Client Mediation and Arbitration Services (July 2020 to Present)

Arbitrator – Attorney-Client Mediation and Arbitration Services (January 2002 to Present)

Vice Chair – Attorney-Client Mediation and Arbitration Services (August 2013 to July 2020)

ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS AND SCIENCES

Production Executives Branch (2000 to Present)

OUT@NBCU

Steering Committee Member – Professional Development (January 2009 to January 2011)