

Susan Arons, Managing Director

Susie oversees Rubenstein's lifestyle and entertainment practice and has extensive experience in all aspects of cause-related, corporate entertainment, music, television and film publicity. Her work spans a wide range – from corporate public relations to film financing to publicity for individual films, shows and events; from marketing support and product launches to brand building; from crisis communications to reputation management.

At Rubenstein, she has managed the agency's representation and promotion of MGM Studios; BMW; Refinery29; Media Rights Capital; New Regency; Focus Features; Entertainment One; STARZ; AMC Networks; The Bowery Presents; AEG; Universal Music Group; Marlo Thomas' THAT WOMAN!; Jimmy Iovine; Nina Jacobson and ColorForce; Tribeca Film Festival; St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; and film and television campaigns, including "The Hunger Games" franchise, "LOVING," "The Girlfriend Experience," "Wall Street Money Never Sleeps," "Saw" (films IV, V, VI, The Final Chapter and Legacy), "The People vs. OJ Simpson: American Crime Story," "London Has Fallen," "Inside Job," "West of Memphis," "Precious," and the upcoming "The Circle" starring Tom Hanks and Emma Watson and the HBO documentary series, "The Defiant Ones."

Susie has also led sophisticated, strategic campaigns for causes including Autism Speaks, College Summit, and Nelson Mandela Day.

Prior to joining Rubenstein, Susie was vice president of PR for Radio City Entertainment/MSG for six years. She developed promotional relationships and oversaw publicity for 300 annual music/entertainment events, including the MTV Music Awards, Barbra Streisand's Farewell and Michael Jackson's 30th Anniversary concerts. Earlier in her career, she owned her own public relations firm whose clients included Sports Illustrated, American Express, the Bolshoi Ballet, and the GRAMMY Awards and Grammy Foundation.

She is on the board of REED Academy, an autism school in New Jersey, and on the advisory boards of the SKIP Health Initiative and the Montclair Film Festival. She loves Chanel, skiing, football, Paris, her husband, her two sons, and her dog Murphy – not necessarily in this order.

BENJAMIN BRAFMAN
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Benjamin Brafman is the principal of a seven-lawyer firm, **Brafman & Associates, P.C.**, located in Manhattan. Mr. Brafman's firm specializes in criminal defense.

Mr. Brafman received his law degree from Ohio Northern University, in 1974, graduating with Distinction and serving as Manuscript Editor of The Law Review. He went on to earn a Masters of Law Degree (LL.M.) in Criminal Justice from New York University Law School. In May of 2014, Mr. Brafman was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Ohio Northern University Law School.

Mr. Brafman, a former Assistant District Attorney in the New York County District Attorney's Office, has been in private practice since 1980. Mr. Brafman was selected by New York Magazine as the "**Best Criminal Defense Lawyer in New York**" and was presented with the "first" ever **Clarence Darrow Award** for Distinguished Practitioner by the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Mr. Brafman, a former Assistant District Attorney in the Rackets Bureau of the New York County District Attorney's Office, has been in private practice since 1980. He has represented a wide range of high-profile celebrities, business leaders, lawyers and professionals in major criminal cases throughout the country, Canada, Europe, Israel, and South Africa including Jay Z, Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, Plaxico Burress, Dominique Strauss-Kahn and currently, Martin Shkreli. Mr. Brafman's acquittal record in complex criminal trials is among the highest in New York City and he lectures widely throughout the United States on issues related to trial advocacy.

Mr. Brafman is a **Fellow** in the American College of Trial Lawyers and in 1997, was selected by New York Magazine as the "**Best Criminal Defense Lawyer in New York.**" He was the recipient of the "**Outstanding Private Criminal Defense Practitioner Award**" for 2005 from the New York State Bar Association, and in March 2006 Mr. Brafman received the **Norman Ostrow Award** for outstanding achievement in the field of White Collar Criminal Defense by the New York Council of Defense Lawyers. In January 2007, Mr. Brafman was presented with the "first" ever **Clarence Darrow Award** for Distinguished Practitioner by the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. In March 2014, he also received the **Robert M. Morgenthau Award** from the Police Athletic League for outstanding achievements in the field of Criminal Defense, and most recently, Mr. Brafman was awarded the **Pursuit of Justice Award** from The American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists.

Brian D. Caplan has more than 30 years' experience litigating a broad range of entertainment, intellectual property and commercial matters. He is a partner in the New York City law firm of Reitler Kailas & Rosenblatt LLC. His clients have included recording artists and producers, publishing companies, record labels, personal managers, business management, accounting firms, professional athletes, and dealers in fine art. In addition to contractual disputes, defamation cases and the prosecution and defense of copyright and trademark infringement actions, Mr. Caplan has represented clients in a broad range of disputes relating to partnerships and closely held corporations, as well as employment matters.

Mr. Caplan is frequently called upon to speak at seminars conducted in the United States and abroad and at select universities with respect to intellectual property matters and the dynamics of the entertainment industry. He is an annual Lecturer before the North American Entertainment & Sports Law Symposium and has lectured as an authority on United States copyright law before the International Association of Entertainment Lawyers annual Midem conference in Cannes, France, as well as the Copyright Society of the USA and the American Bar Association.

Mr. Caplan's clients include the Estate of George Gershwin, Cirque Du Soleil, the Lumineers, the Allman Brothers Band, Blondie and Victor Willis, the original lead singer of the Village People. Mr. Caplan represented Mr. Willis in a precedent setting copyright termination case involving the composition "YMCA" and 22 other songs in which Mr. Willis terminated various copyright grants from the late 1970s.

Since founding his law firm in 1995, Theo Sedlmayr has represented many superstar recording artists, record producers, songwriters and media executives. Driven by his passion for hip-hop, his clients have included some of the most significant rap artists in the music industry including Eminem, Drake, 50 Cent, Rick Ross as well as songwriter/producers such as DJ Khaled, The Dream and Timbaland to name a few. In addition to negotiating leading edge deals for records, publishing, touring and merchandising for his music clients; he also supports their entrepreneurial drive towards brand expansion by providing counsel on strategic partnerships in categories such as technology, apparel, fragrances, beverages, spirits, literature, film and television.

Nadja Webb Cogsville is Senior Vice President & Deputy General Counsel, Business and Legal Affairs, reporting directly to the General Counsel of Viacom Media Networks (“VMN”). Nadja oversees and manages a large BALA team for VH1, Logo, BET and Centric. In addition, she oversees the Music Strategy team and music businesses across VMN and BET. Her team members are located in offices in Los Angeles, New York and Washington DC. Nadja has extensive transactional experience across multiple media platforms including television, music and digital. Her expertise is in structuring and negotiating complex deals, analyzing risks and developing creative solutions to business challenges. She supports a variety of business groups including, production and development, on air & off air creative, talent relations, marketing, integrated marketing and new business development. She structures, drafts and negotiates all forms of development and production agreements for reality, scripted and digital programming, including, creator and EP agreements, rights acquisitions, third party production agreements, co-financing and international distribution agreements.

As head of Music Strategy group, Nadja negotiates and drafts global music rights agreements across VMN and BET’s linear and digital platforms and advises senior company executives in connection therewith. She is an integral partner to the business development, product development, and marketing senior executives in helping to define, build and grow the multi-platform businesses.

Prior to joining VMN, Nadja was Senior Counsel at Atlantic Recording Corporation, Counsel at Sony Music Entertainment Inc. and an Associate at the law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges. She received a law degree from Harvard Law School and a Bachelors of Arts from Wesleyan University. She lives in New York with her husband, Donald Cogsville, and their two children.



MICHAEL D. FRICKLAS

**Executive Vice President,
General Counsel and Secretary
Viacom Inc.**

Michael D. Fricklas has served in senior management of Viacom's legal department since 1993; since 1998 he has been General Counsel and Secretary, Viacom's most senior legal position.

Mr. Fricklas is responsible for the legal affairs of Viacom, home to the world's premier entertainment brands across television, motion pictures, online and on mobile platforms. Viacom's iconic brands include MTV, VH1, Nickelodeon, BET, Comedy Central, Spike, TV Land, CMT, Paramount Pictures and many others.

At Viacom, Mr. Fricklas plays an integral role in guiding complex transactions and resolving disputes, in coordinating the company's legal and business affairs activities, in corporate governance and in leading Viacom's Law Department. He is a frequent panelist and lecturer on corporate governance and on the law and business of entertainment.

Mr. Fricklas received a B.S.E.E. from the University of Colorado's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences in 1981 and a J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Boston University School of Law in 1984. Prior to Viacom, Mr. Fricklas practiced law related to venture capital financing, technology and other securities matters and mergers and acquisitions in private practice and was general counsel of the North American businesses of a global mining concern.

Mr. Fricklas was past president of the Association of General Counsel and serves in a variety of other professional and community activities, including as Secretary and a member of the Board of Jazz at Lincoln Center, and as a member of the Board of Overseers of Boston University and the Board of Visitors of Boston University School of Law. He was named one of "America's 50 Outstanding General Counsel" by the *National Law Journal* in 2016 and the Viacom Law Department was named as "Best Legal Department 2016" by Corporate Counsel Magazine. Mr. Fricklas has received numerous awards including being the recipient of the Raising the Bar Award from *The Hollywood Reporter*, the Counsel of the Year Award from the Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel, the *Legal 500* 2014 Entertainment Individual of the Year, and the top honor for general counsel, the "Excellence in Corporate Practice" award from the Association of Corporate Counsel. He also serves as a member of the planning committee for the Tulane

Corporate Law Institute, a member of the board of advisors of the Center on Civil Justice at New York University School of Law and a member of New York's permanent commission on access to justice..

ERIQ GARDNER

Eriq Gardner is a senior editor at The Hollywood Reporter, where he has been writing since 2007.

He is responsible for the ESQ blog, breaking stories and providing influential analysis of media law. In 2015, the ABA Journal added ESQ to its Hall of Fame of law blawgs.

A graduate of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, Gardner has also contributed to many other publications and appeared extensively on radio and television to discuss the First Amendment, intellectual property and other hot issues.

He is currently at work on his first book, "Everyone's Perfect: How the Information Glut is Transforming Society."



Cynthia Gibson
Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer
Scripps Networks Interactive

Cynthia Gibson serves as executive vice president and chief legal officer for Scripps Networks Interactive, a leading developer of high-profile content for multiple lifestyle media platforms, including television, digital, mobile and publishing, with well known brands including Food Network, HGTV, Travel Channel, Cooking Channel, DIY Network, Fine Living Italy and Asian Food Channel. Based in Knoxville, she reports to Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President Ken Lowe. In this role, Gibson manages the company's global business and legal affairs, government affairs, external relations and internal audit departments, with staff in Knoxville, New York, Chevy Chase, London, Warsaw and Singapore.

Gibson is a member of the Supervisory Board of TVN S.A., a leading television and digital broadcast company based in Warsaw, Poland . She also serves as a member of the board of directors for The Trust Company, a trust and wealth management firm based in Knoxville Tennessee. She is a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors, Women Corporate Directors, Women in Cable Telecommunications and the National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications.

Gibson been recognized as one of the "Most Powerful Women in Cable" by Cablefax. She participated in the Women in Cable Telecommunications Senior Executive Summit at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business and in the Cable Executive Management Program at Harvard Business School. While in private practice, she was recognized as among "The Best Lawyers in America" and named one of the Top 50 Women Attorneys in Ohio and the Top 25 Women Attorneys in Cincinnati.

Active in the philanthropic community, nationally, Gibson is a member of the board of trustees of United Way of America. In Tennessee, she serves on the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness and the board of Complete Tennessee. In Knoxville, she is a founding member of the Women of Tocqueville and serves as a member of the board of directors for the United Way of Greater Knoxville. She is also a trustee of the Episcopal School of Knoxville board, serving as Secretary. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the West High School Foundation, co-chairing its One to One Campaign.

Gibson earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Virginia, School of Law. She has a bachelor's degree in history from Wake Forest University.

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Jonathan Lutzky
General Counsel
VICE MEDIA

As General Counsel, Jonathan Lutzky oversees the global legal operations of VICE Media, which includes oversight of all transactional and compliance matters. VICE is a global youth multimedia distribution company and digital content creation studio operating in over 40 countries. VICE owns and operates the popular website [VICE.COM](https://www.vice.com), a network of international digital channels, the TV network VICELAND, the film studio VICE FILMS, a creative services agency, a record label VICE RECORDS, magazines and a book-publishing division.

Detroit native attorney Paul Rosenberg has become one of the music industry's most prominent artist managers and record label executives thanks to a combination of sharp business acumen and a savvy ear for talent. He is the founder and CEO of Goliath Artists Inc. — the powerhouse New York-based management firm that handles the career of global hip-hop superstar Eminem and several other recording artists including Action Bronson and Danny Brown. Paul also is the President of Shady Records, the boutique record label he launched in 1999 with Eminem that has released breakthrough albums by such hip-hop acts as 50 Cent, D12 and Bad Meets Evil (Eminem's collaboration with Royce Da 5'9").

Rosenberg added the role of producer to his resume as Executive Producer of the 2002 blockbuster Imagine/Universal film 8 Mile, followed by serving as Producer with Jimmy Iovine on 50 Cent's 2005 debut acting vehicle from Paramount Pictures Get Rich Or Die Tryin' and as Producer of 2015's hit Southpaw from The Weinstein Company. Recently, along with Eminem, Rosenberg launched Shady Films, an original content creation group that has produced web series, television and broadcast live events.

In addition to overseeing his current projects, which include acting as Producer for Eminem's SiriusXM satellite radio station Shade45, Rosenberg also devotes his time to developing RapRadar.com, the premiere online destination for the latest news, music, and video related to hip-hop culture that Rosenberg launched in 2009 with esteemed journalist/author Elliott Wilson.

JEFFREY D. SCHNEIDER BIOGRAPHY

Jeffrey D. Schneider is the Executive Vice President, Business and Legal Affairs, for National Geographic Partners, a joint venture between 21st Century Fox and the National Geographic Society which was formed to capitalize on the media brands of National Geographic. He is the chief legal officer of the company, which is comprised of global businesses in the areas of TV, publishing, home entertainment and consumer products. He is based in Washington, D.C.

Prior to National Geographic Partners, Mr. Schneider held legal and/or business affairs positions within 20th Century Fox (for Fox TV Studios); A+E Networks (for A+E, History and Lifetime); Endemol-Shine U.S.; MTV; NBCUniversal (for Bravo, Oxygen, Style, Sprout, Telemundo, Fandango and Daily Candy); and Paramount Pictures. He has also practiced at two Los Angeles-based entertainment law firms and clerked for a federal judge.

Schneider is currently an adjunct professor at Georgetown University School of Law and a lecturer at American University. He has previously taught at the Carnegie-Mellon University Heinz Graduate School of Management, the University of Southern California School of Law and the Pepperdine School of Law.

Schneider holds a J.D. from the University of Southern California (1991, with honors, law review), as well as a B.A. in Communication Studies from UCLA (1987, cum laude).

Since founding his law firm in 1995, Theo Sedlmayr has represented many superstar recording artists, record producers, songwriters and media executives. Driven by his passion for hip-hop, his clients have included some of the most significant rap artists in the music industry including Eminem, Drake, 50 Cent, Rick Ross as well as songwriter/producers such as DJ Khaled, The Dream and Timbaland to name a few. In addition to negotiating leading edge deals for records, publishing, touring and merchandising for his music clients; he also supports their entrepreneurial drive towards brand expansion by providing counsel on strategic partnerships in categories such as technology, apparel, fragrances, beverages, spirits, literature, film and television.

