Steve Tsoneff

Partner

stsoneff@gibsondunn.com
T: +1 310.552.8698
Century City



Steve Tsoneff is a partner in Gibson Dunn's Century City office. He has two decades of experience advising content producers, distributors, and financiers in a variety of media and entertainment transactions, with a focus on the production, licensing, and distribution of audiovisual content and various approaches to the financing of such content, including single-project, slate, corporate, and co-financing transactions. He also provides industry expertise to clients who are acquiring, investing in, or selling companies in the media and entertainment space and advises clients on media rights issues for sports leagues and teams.

Steve was named among the 500 Leading Global Entertainment, Sports & Media Lawyers by *Lawdragon* in 2025 and 2026. He was also ranked by *Chambers USA* as a leading transactional Media and Entertainment practitioner in California. Since 2024, Steve has been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*® as a Lawyer of the Year in Entertainment Law.

Steve returned to Gibson Dunn after serving as General Counsel & Head of Business Affairs for the entertainment production company Madison Wells Media from 2017 through 2021, where he was a member of the core management team leading the company's development, production, and financing activities across film, television, live stage, podcasting, and digital media. He currently practices in the firm's Corporate Transactional Department and was previously Co-Chair of the firm's Media, Entertainment and Technology Practice Group.

Prior to joining Madison Wells Media, Steve was a partner at Gibson Dunn and practiced at the firm from 2000 to 2017.

Representative matters include:

- Representation of **Universal Pictures** in numerous transactions, including:
  - Its partnership with Blumhouse Productions in a ten-year first-look production agreement;
  - Its multi-year slate financing transaction with Perfect World Pictures;
  - Its multi-year distribution partnership with Amblin' Entertainment;
  - Its co-production and co-financing transaction with Legendary Entertainment;
  - Its $150 million sale of Rogue Pictures to Relativity Media;
  - Numerous single-picture financing and distribution transactions; and
  - Various German, UK and Spanish tax-incentivized film finance transactions.

Capabilities

Media, Entertainment, and Technology
Finance
Intellectual Property
Royalty Finance

Credentials

Education

Columbia University - 2000 Juris Doctor
Harvard University - 1997 Bachelor of Arts

Admissions

California Bar

2026 Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. All rights reserved.
For other information, please visit us at **www.gibsondunn.com**

GIBSON DUNN

- Representation of **RedBird Capital Partners** in several transactions, including:
    - Its acquisition of All3Media, the largest independent television production and distribution company in the UK;
    - Its investment in the TV studio and production company Media Res; and
    - Its formation of the Hidden Pigeon Company, Mo Willems' multiplatform children's content venture.
- Representation of **Candle Media**, a Blackstone-backed media company led by Kevin Mayer and Tom Staggs, in several transactions including:
    - Its acquisition of Spanish-language content producer Exile Content Studio;
    - Its acquisition of socially progressive media company ATTN:; and
    - Its sale of the Spanish-language music label Exile Music to HYBE.
- Representation of the **National Football League** in its joint venture with Skydance Media to form Skydance Sports, a premier global multi-sports production studio.
- Representation of the **North Road Company**, a global multi-genre film and TV studio founded by Peter Chernin, in its acquisition of the U.S. assets of Red Arrow Studios.
- Representation of **Rachel Maddow** in the formation of her production company and her first-look transactions in film and television.
- Representation of **Lupa Systems** in the formation of the production company Futurific Studios and its production and distribution of the PBS documentary series "A Brief History of the Future".
- Representation of **Point72 Ventures** in various media and entertainment investments.
- Representation of **TikTok** in various advisory matters.
- Representation of **LIV Golf** in various media and entertainment transactions.
- Representation of **Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation** in numerous transactions, including:
    - Its multi-year film slate financing transactions with TSG Entertainment Finance LLC and Dune Capital Management;
    - Its partnership with Cirque du Soleil to develop an arena-touring production based on "Avatar";
    - Its license arrangement with Ubisoft to develop an "Avatar" video game;
    - Its partnership with Resorts World Genting to develop the world's first Fox theme park, in Malaysia;
    - Its multi-picture co-financing transaction with Ivanhoe Pictures for local-language films in India, Korea, Japan, China and Taiwan;
    - Numerous studio co-financing transactions and single-picture financing and distribution transactions; and
    - Various German, UK, and Spanish tax-incentivized film finance transactions.
- Representation of **Paramount Pictures** in its co-production and co-financing transaction with Skydance Productions, as well as numerous single-picture financing and distribution transactions.
- Representation of **DZ Bank AG** in its financing of various motion pictures produced by Constantin Film;
- Representation of **New Line Cinema/Warner Bros.** in its $350 million slate financing transaction with The Royal Bank of Scotland and various German, UK and Spanish tax-incentivized film finance transactions.

Steve Tsoneff
Partner

stsoneff@gibsondunn.com
T: +1 310.552.8698
Century City

2026 Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. All rights reserved.
For other information, please visit us at **www.gibsondunn.com**

- Representation of **Illumination Entertainment** in its strategic alliance with Fuji TV in Japan.
- Representation of **Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios** in various co-financing transactions.

Steve has received numerous industry accolades, including multiple appearances on *The Hollywood Reporter*'s Top 100 Power Lawyers list, and *Variety*'s Dealmakers Impact Report list and Legal Impact Report lists, as well as *The Daily Journal.* He was named by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* as a "Leader of Influence" and was previously ranked by *Chambers USA* as an "Up and Coming" California lawyer in the category of Media and Entertainment: Transactional.

Steve received his law degree from Columbia Law School in 2000. While at Columbia, Steve was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and spent a semester studying at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in English & American Literature*, cum laude*, in 1997 from Harvard College, where he was a member of the heavyweight crew team.

Steve is admitted to practice law in California.

Steve Tsoneff
Partner

stsoneff@gibsondunn.com

T: +1 310.552.8698

Century City

2026 Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. All rights reserved.
For other information, please visit us at **www.gibsondunn.com**