

Daily Journal

MAY 8, 2013

Top Women Lawyers

This supplement is devoted to recognizing excellent lawyering and leadership skills among women attorneys in California. To pick a list of 75 litigators and 25 corporate transactions and regulatory specialists, editors at the Daily Journal reviewed hundreds of nominations from law firms, public agencies, nonprofits and universities.

Women are helping major litigation and deals and on the cutting edge of regulatory work. They are leaders and rainmakers in their law firms in numbers never seen before.

—The Editors

Ruth Fisher

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, Los Angeles

PRACTICE TYPE: corporate

SPECIALTY: entertainment

The entertainment world is continuing to collide with non-media industries, Fisher said.

“The boundaries of the entertainment world and the non-entertainment world continue to blur,” she added, “with the entertainment companies increasingly in arenas like technology and non-entertainment companies doing entertainment deals as part of their outreach to consumers.”

For Fisher, “That means that I increasingly find that our media, entertainment and technology practice group really represents companies in every industry.”

She added, “Although the core of our practice is traditional entertainment companies, our entire industry focus means that, sooner or later, you will deal with companies in almost every industry.”

Among her significant matters, Fisher represented Anheuser-Busch Companies LLC in connection with the financing of a documentary movie, among other matters; DirecTV LLC with significant affiliation agreements, including with Univision Communications; Discovery Communications LLC with a sale of technology; and Macquarie Group Limited with a print and ad loan facility to a studio — a specialized form of financing in the movie industry.

“Everything is merging together, and this produces huge opportunities and also creates a lot of stress,” Fisher said.



“We are a group that is constantly trying to stay on top of what is the newest development and legal issues related to those developments.”

She added, “We are not waiting for the clients to raise those issues. We’re trying to be proactive and understand issues and what we might do in the face of those.”

Every deal is challenging, Fisher said, and bankruptcies are particularly trying.

Recently she represented game company THQ Inc., which went into bankruptcy, and helped it with the sale of its various studios in bankruptcy.

“Each of those sales presented deal issues but, added to the usual issues, was the fact that we and the client were also dealing with the bankruptcy of a great company, full of great people,” Fisher said. “It’s an issue I haven’t had to deal with a lot.”

Financial stress is prevalent in the entertainment industry, Fisher said, adding, “You need to be a breakout company. If you’re not, the financial stress will be particularly significant.”

— Pat Broderick