


People



## Caroline H. Mankey

Partner, Intellectual Property

Los Angeles  
T: +1 213 533 5949

caroline.mankey@akerman.com  
vCard

[Connect With Me](#)

Caroline Mankey is a seasoned trial lawyer representing diverse clients in the entertainment, arts, fashion, retail, and technology sectors, including motion picture studios and production companies, major media companies, film libraries, actors, comedians, television personalities, musicians, artists, jewelry designers, manufacturers, architects, market research firms, in disputes involving copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, defamation, licensing and other contract rights, rights of publicity, business interference, and partnership disputes.

For more than twenty five years, Caroline has served as lead trial counsel in numerous trials and arbitrations, prevailed on dispositive motions at the trial level and on appeals before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the California Court of Appeal. Caroline's first trial experience as a young lawyer was protecting the rights of The Three Stooges in a case in which the California Supreme Court published what has become seminal right of publicity jurisprudence. In addition to her extensive trial experience, Caroline is skilled at strategically positioning her clients' cases for optimal settlements to minimize the high costs and risks to her clients and maximize resources and business opportunities. Clients value Caroline's thoughtful and strategic approach to problem-solving and her sensitivity to the economic, reputational, and business impacts of their legal matters.

Notable Work

**False Advertising Class Action:** Represented a fourth generation family-owned food company in a California consumer false advertising class action in which the plaintiff claimed that North Carolina's Texas Pete hot sauce was deceptive in suggesting it was made in Texas and thus led him to overpay for the product. The case was dismissed during the early phases of discovery.

**Trial:** Obtained a complete defense verdict in a week-long jury trial on behalf of an adult toy manufacturer in a breach of contract claim brought by one of its European distributors. Client defeated the €1

Areas of Experience

Intellectual Property  
Copyrights  
Sports and Entertainment Law

Education

J.D., University of California, Los Angeles, 1996  
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles, 1990, *cum laude*

Admissions

Bars

California

Courts

U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California  
U.S. District Court, Northern District of California  
California Supreme Court

Related Content

Akerman Partners Named 2025 *Lawdragon* 500  
Leading Global Entertainment, Sports & Media  
Lawyers  
March 20, 2025

Seven Akerman Attorneys Recognized Among 2025  
California Super Lawyers  
February 27, 2025

Akerman Partners Caroline Mankey and Joshua  
Mandell Awarded 2024 Firm Attorney Visionaries by  
*Los Angeles Times*  
November 18, 2024

million claim and recovered a balance due from the distributor as part of the client's counterclaim.

**Trial:** First-chaired and won a \$1 million+ judgment on behalf of the founder of a renowned rock band in a jury trial for misappropriation of her client's statutory and common law publicity rights arising out of the unauthorized use of photographs in a national print advertising campaign for athletic shoes.

**Trial:** First-chaired and won trial of a multi-party partnership dispute and secured a \$10 million+ judgment for her client.

**Trial:** Tried and won a two-month-long jury trial against a major film and television production company for breach of an intellectual property license concerning the rights to manufacture and distribute electronic toys.

**Appeal:** Argued and prevailed before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in defense of Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's bus system, concluding more than 10 years of contentious, high-profile litigation.

**Appeal:** Successfully defended a multinational mass media corporation in United States District Court and in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in a suit alleging the client's motion picture infringed on the copyright to a 1925 comedy film.

**Trial:** Served as trial and appellate counsel for entertainment company and prevailed in both courts in a dispute over the unauthorized manufacturing and sale of T-shirts and posters bearing the images of a famous comedy team. Served as counsel for *amici curiae* clients in connection with the California Supreme Court's review of the case, which became one of the seminal California cases on right of publicity law.

**Trial:** First-chaired and won bench trial for specific performance of buy-sell agreement among shareholders in closely held corporation.

**Trial:** First chaired 7-day bench trial and secured judgment in favor of the defense in probate case involving claims by the sister of client's deceased life partner seeking to recover all property and assets that had been co-owned by the couple prior to the death of the decedent. Judgment affirmed on appeal.

**Trial:** First chaired bench trial and defeated all disputed claims for breach of oral agreement arising out of a former domestic relationship.

**Trial:** First chaired jury trial defending movie producer against claims of assault and abuse arising out of former domestic relationship and prevailed on key evidentiary disputes leading to favorable settlement midway through jury selection.

**Arbitration:** Secured an award of compensatory damages, lost profits and attorneys' fees and costs for her client in an arbitration for breach of an exhibition agreement based on the respondents' failure to secure necessary permits allowing an exhibit of one-of-a-kind movie memorabilia to open to the public.

**Arbitration:** In an arbitration for breach of a film distribution agreement based on the respondent's failure to account for and pay distribution fees, on August 11, 2020, less than one week before the commencement of the arbitration, she successfully moved to

preclude the respondent from presenting any witness testimony and any evidence in support of its affirmative defenses to her client's claims as a result of the respondent's failure to participate in discovery and preparation for arbitration. As a result of the ruling, she was able to negotiate a very favorable settlement for her client.

**Arbitration:** Prevailed on behalf of respondent in arbitration of claims arising out of a manufacturing agreement to bottle wine in single serving pouches and secured an award of all attorneys' fees and costs.

**Dispositive Motion:** In a lawsuit for involuntary dissolution of a family owned corporation, she secured a buyout of her client's interests in the corporation and, by an order dated May 4, 2022, successfully moved for summary judgment defeating all of the cross-claims and eliminating the need for a trial.

**Dispositive Motion:** As counsel for a counter-defendant in a high stakes case involving competing claims of copyright and trademark infringement, she successfully moved to dismiss her client on the ground that the court lacked personal jurisdiction over the client, a Wisconsin company.

**Dispositive Motion:** Filed summary judgment motion seeking dismissal of plaintiff's claims for alleged trademark and copyright infringement arising out of competing jewelry designs, leading to the voluntary dismissal of the copyright infringement claim by the plaintiff, and after statements made by the District Court judge at the hearing on the motion suggesting that she would find the plaintiff's trademarks descriptive and unprotectable, leading to settlement on terms very favorable to the client.

**Dispositive Motion:** In a lawsuit for copyright infringement filed against the firm's client, a renowned artist, she successfully argued on summary judgment of the copyright infringement claim that the idea of two dolphins swimming underwater, with one swimming upright and the other crossing horizontally, is not protected by copyright.

**Dispositive Motion:** Obtained preliminary and permanent injunction preventing the use or dissemination of videotaped footage of a well-known comedian/actor.

**Dispositive Motion:** Prevailed against media defendants' anti-SLAPP motion to strike a supermodel's claim for breach of oral contract arising from defendants' creation of a television show different from the agreed-upon nature and focus of the show.

**Dispositive Motion:** Prevailed in probate court proceeding resulting in order that an oral license defense to a copyright infringement action violated the no-contest provisions of a well-known comedian's trust.

**Dispositive Motion:** Represented well-known comedian's estate and successfully opposed the defendant's motion to stay copyright infringement action, pending appeal of an order of the Probate Department of the Los Angeles Superior Court that the assertion of a proposed defense to the action would violate the no-contest provisions of a trust. Successfully opposed the defendant's motion to dismiss a complaint for copyright infringement for lack of personal jurisdiction and improper venue or, in the alternative, to transfer for improper venue or convenience, leading to settlement.

**Dispositive Motion:** Successfully moved to dismiss plaintiff's claim for violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act arising from alleged access of plaintiff's proprietary source code.

**Settlement:** Defended a start-up and its founders in suit for misappropriation of trade secrets, leading to settlement.

**Settlement:** Represented a loan-out corporation for a television host in a suit for breach of a talent licensing agreement, leading to settlement.

**Settlement:** Co-wrote a motion to dismiss that disposed of the bulk of an actor's challenges to a motion picture company's rights to a movie franchise, leading to settlement.

## Honors and Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers*, 2021-2025, Listed in California for Entertainment Law – Motion Pictures and Television
- *Super Lawyer Magazine*, 2011-2025, Listed in Southern California for Intellectual Property Litigation
- *Lawdragon 500*, 2025, Listed as One of the Leading Global Entertainment, Sports & Media Lawyers for Litigation - Entertainment, Arts, Fashion, Retail, IP
- *Daily Journal*, 2024, 2017, Listed as one of the Top Intellectual Property Lawyers in California
- *Los Angeles Business Journal*, 2023, Listed as a "Top 100 Lawyer" in Los Angeles
- *National Law Journal's* List of Intellectual Property Trailblazers, 2017
- *Super Lawyer Magazine*, Top 50 Women Lawyers of Southern California, 2014
- *Super Lawyer Magazine*, Listed in Southern California as a "Rising Star," 2005

## Affiliations

- Women Who Lead Board, Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel, Chair Emeritus
- The Industry, Emeritus Board of Directors
- Female Executives in Media and Entertainment, Board Member, 2018-2021
- Los Angeles Copyright Society, Trustee, 2019-2021
- Paley Center Media Council
- ChIPs (Chiefs in Intellectual Property)
- Chair for the Class of 1996 UCLA School of Law Reunion 2016
- ASU-Arkfeld eDiscovery Conference Advisory Committee 2012-2016
- 2015 Member of Board of Directors of Reading Opens Minds
- United States District Court for the Central District of California, Attorney Settlement Officer for copyright and trademark cases, 2010-2015

## Published Work and Lectures

- Women in Technology at Applied Systems, Speaker, "Mindfulness for Success," January 21, 2021
- Beverly Hills Bar Association MCLE, Panelist, "Right of Publicity Law: Modern Issues & Major Developments," June 13, 2019

- *Gurvey's Law*, 790 KABC, Co-Host, "Hollywood to Law Professor: Charlie Korsmo," April 28, 2019
- USC Gould School of Law's 2019 Intellectual Property Institute, Speaker, "Emerging Trends in Trademark Remedies," March 18, 2019
- Today's General Counsel Institute "The Exchange" Conference, Speaker, "Preserving Proportionality yet Avoiding Spoliation," December 12, 2018
- Bridgeport Continuing Legal Education, Speaker, "Obtaining and Using Social Media as Electronic Evidence; New Platforms for Liability 2018," November 2, 2018
- Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association Roundtable at Loyola Law School, Speaker, April 4, 2018
- Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel's Women Who Lead Board Board Event: Advice & Appetizers, Advisor, March 26, 2018
- *L.A. Biz*, Co-author, "Hollywood hackers: How to prevent and respond to cyberattacks in the entertainment industry," September 5, 2017
- Webinar, Speaker, "Pirates, Hackers & Thieves – Oh My! New Cyberrisks Facing the Entertainment Industry," August 23, 2017
- Webinar, Speaker, "A Primer for Trademark and Copyright Issues in Fashion," June 6, 2017
- Entertainment Law Practicum session on entertainment litigation at Loyola Law School, March 16, 2016
- Costa Mesa, "Truth Is the New Black: A Conversation Series," December 2, 2015
- Today's General Counsel Institute "The Exchange" Conference, Panelist, "Practical Implications of the Newly Amended FRCP," December 7, 2015
- Today's General Counsel Institute "The Exchange" Conference, Panelist, "Cooperation and Collaboration," December 8, 2015
- Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association Roundtable at Loyola Law School, October 13, 2015
- Radio Interview by Mari Frank, KUCI, "Privacy Piracy," May 5, 2014
- ASU-Arkfeld eDiscovery and Digital Evidence Conference, Moderator, "BYOD and Social Media – Can the Chaos Evolve Into Order?" March 14, 2014
- ASU-Arkfeld eDiscovery and Digital Evidence Conference, Moderator, "Cloudy Skies Ahead? Practical Approaches to the Uncertainties and Risks of Cloud Computing," March 12, 2014
- Today's General Counsel Institute "The Exchange" Conference, Panelist, "The Importance of Process and Project Management Skills," December 11, 2013
- *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, Author, "'Tweet, Tweet,' Went the Rock Star," January 30, 2014
- Federal Judicial Center E-Discovery Seminar for Federal Judges, Panelist, "ESI in Small Actions," September 10, 2013
- ASU-Arkfeld eDiscovery and Digital Evidence Conference, Moderator, "Social Media Discovery Considerations," March 14, 2013
- *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, Author, "But My Lawyer Told Me to Delete the Facebook Posts!" March 6, 2012

- ASU-Arkfeld eDiscovery and Digital Evidence Conference, Panelist, “Litigation Holds — Know When to (Litigation) Hold ’em, Know When to Fold ’em,” March 13, 2013
- ASU-Arkfeld eDiscovery and Digital Evidence Conference, Moderator, “Atypical Discovery,” May 25, 2012
- Bar Association of San Francisco Webinar, Speaker, “Social Media as Electronic Evidence,” May 15, 2012

## Published Decisions

- *Flower Manufacturing, LLC v. CareCo, LLC*, 466 F. Supp. 3d 797 (N.D. Ohio 2020)
- *AtPac, Inc. v. Aptitude Solutions, Inc.*, 730 F. Supp. 2d 1174 (E.D. Cal. 2010)
- *Labor/Community Strategy Center v. L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority*, 564 F.3d 1115 (9th Cir. 2009)
- *Comedy III Productions, Inc. v. Gary Saderup, Inc.*, 25 Cal.4<sup>th</sup>387 (2001)
- *Comedy III Productions, Inc. v. New Line Cinema*, 200 F.3d 593 (9th Cir. 2000)
- *Comedy III Productions, Inc. v. Gary Saderup, Inc.*, 68 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup>744 (1998)