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# Elisabeth Moriarty

Chair, Litigation Department

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Elisabeth Moriarty is Chair of Greenberg Glusker’s Litigation Department. She is an experienced litigator who handles complex, high-profile disputes.

## **Media, Entertainment, and Intellectual Property Litigation**

Liz has represented plaintiffs and defendants in some of the entertainment industry’s most significant, high-stakes disputes involving copyright, trademark and trade dress infringement, motion picture production and distribution, defamation, unfair competition, the licensing of intellectual property rights, and contractual disputes. She is skilled at working on large, high-profile entertainment matters where a confluence of issues come together to span a wide variety of disciplines.

She has extensive experience litigating major profit participation matters on behalf of talent, artists and rights holders, including the Estate of J.R.R. Tolkien, Marvel Entertainment and the rights holders to the Winnie the Pooh property. Liz has close, long-standing relationships with the top entertainment auditors/accountants in the field, and has unique experience interpreting complex contractual royalty provisions and convoluted participation statements.

Liz has also handled matters involving online and digital media, television and music rights and idea submission disputes.

## **High-Net-Worth Divorce Proceedings**

While Greenberg Glusker does not have a traditional family law practice, Liz has significant experience litigating business issues in complex, high asset divorce proceedings, including cases involving marital property characterization, valuation and division, apportionment, marital agreements and complex marital property issues.

## **Services**

- Litigation
- High Net Worth & Probate Litigation
- Entertainment Litigation
- General Commercial Litigation
- Intellectual Property Litigation

Liz draws on her sophisticated litigation expertise, her creative, problem-solving approach and her discretion to help her clients successfully navigate and resolve, by way of settlement or trial, the contentious, sensitive, and challenging financial disputes that often arise in high-stakes divorce litigation.

### **Trial Experience**

Among Liz's successful trial and litigation achievements are serving on the trial team in Jeffrey Katzenberg's landmark action to recover his profit participation against the Walt Disney Company, and serving as second chair in a 14 week jury trial on behalf of best-selling novelist Clive Cussler in his contentious legal battle with Crusader Entertainment over the film rights to Cussler's novel *Sahara*.

### **Community and Charitable Organizations**

- Seven Arrows Elementary
  - Advisory Board (2017-present)
  - Board of Trustees (2010-2017)
- The Forgotten Dog Foundation

### **Awards**

- Legal 500, US Elite Los Angeles - Commercial Disputes, 2026
- Nominee, Women's Leadership Symposium & Awards, *Los Angeles Business Journal*, 2025
- Legal Visionaries, *L.A. Times Studios*, 2025
- Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys, *Los Angeles Business Journal*, 2023
- Top 100 Lawyers, *Los Angeles Business Journal*, 2022
- Southern California *Super Lawyers*, 2023
- *Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Stars (Arts/Entertainment)* 2005, 2006

### **Bar Admissions**

- California

### **Court Admissions**

- United States District Court for the Central, Northern, and Southern Districts of California
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

### **Education**

- University of California, Los Angeles (J.D., 1991)
- State University of New York at Albany (B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1988)
  - Phi Beta Kappa

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# Representative Matters

## Entertainment Experience

- Obtained summary judgment for a business management firm in a first-of-its-kind “idea theft” claim filed by a talent manager concerning the eligibility of touring musicians and bands to receive Shattered Venue Operator Grants (“SVOG”), a COVID-19 relief program established during the pandemic
- Currently representing film production company in a dispute involving sequel and remake rights
- Represented film producer in a lawsuit alleging that a financier had breached its contractual obligation to fund a film and that the financier’s chairperson made fraudulent representations relating to her company’s ability to fund the amounts owed. The Firm prevailed on several significant motions and the case was successfully settled
- Represented Marvel Entertainment, owner of the copyrights in Spider-Man, Iron Man and numerous other iconic characters in various matters involving intellectual property disputes, profit participation rights and general litigation
- Represented the Estate of J.R.R. Tolkien in a landmark profit participation case against New Line Cinema for the "Lord of the Rings" film trilogy
- Represented the Estate of J.R.R. Tolkien and Harper Collins in an action against Warner Bros. and The Saul Zaentz Company involving merchandising exploitation of J.R.R. Tolkien’s classic novels, The Hobbit, and the three volumes of The Lord of the Rings
- Represented best-selling author Clive Cussler in his dispute regarding the motion picture version of the novel, “Sahara”
- Represented a Grammy-award winning musician and artist in a copyright infringement dispute involving a graphic novel
- Represented a motion picture producer in a contractual dispute over the foreign distribution of its film
- Represented Academy Award winning composer Hans Zimmer in a multi-faceted dispute with his long-time business partner
- Represented the owners of merchandising and other rights in the Winnie the Pooh characters, in their breach of contract and fraud dispute against a major entertainment company for failure to pay royalties
- Member of the team that successfully represented Jeffrey Katzenberg in his landmark action to recover his profit participation against The Walt Disney Company
- Represented Roland Corporation, a leading manufacturer of electronic musical instruments and accessories, in various litigation to protect its copyright, trademark and trade dress rights in various products, and in a case of first impression involving copyright and trademark infringement
- Represented an international film and television producer and distributor in a dispute involving a purported finders’ fee to be paid in connection with a well-known television miniseries; a very favorable arbitration award was achieved for the Firm’s client

## High Net Worth Divorce Experience

- Represented a wife in her divorce proceeding against her husband, a Silicon Valley

billionaire, who is best known as the unofficial third founder of Google and originator of the code that powers the search giant

- Represented high-net-worth hedge fund founder in divorce proceeding against his wife
  - Represented high-profile restaurateur in divorce proceeding against his wife
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## Publications

July 24, 2023

**Be Prepared: Using Public Relations to Manage a Dispute or Stop it in its Tracks**

*Los Angeles Business Journal*

July 27, 2012

**An Olympic Games only the sponsors could love**

*MarketWatch*

July 24, 2012

**To Avoid Trademark Headaches, Olympics Must Be Off-Limit**

*Law360 (subscription required)*