

James R. Molen

Partner

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James R. Molen is an entertainment litigator who represents some of the most prominent names in Hollywood.

His clients include leading actors, directors, writers, producers, and rights holders, as well as production companies and digital media platforms. James regularly provides counsel for high-profile talent and institutions, including Tom Cruise, James Cameron, J.K. Rowling, Chris Hemsworth, Vin Diesel, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and Riot Games.

James handles high-stakes disputes at the center of the entertainment industry, including copyright, right of publicity, profit participation, and contract matters. He is deeply involved in emerging issues at the intersection of technology and media, including artificial intelligence, digital likeness, and the unauthorized exploitation of identity.

Over the years, James has secured significant victories for his clients. He obtained a \$33 million arbitration award against T-Mobile under the Federal Communications Act arising from a SIM swap attack—the largest known award of its kind. He has also represented major talent and rights holders in disputes involving ownership and control of iconic media properties, including the successful defense of the producers of *Below Deck*, and a summary judgment victory for Warren Beatty securing his exclusive rights to *Dick Tracy*. Early in his career, James helped lead the team that represented Shelly Sterling in the \$2 billion sale of the Los Angeles Clippers.

In addition to his entertainment practice, James represents clients in complex commercial disputes, including false advertising, corporate governance, and business torts, and advises companies on intellectual property strategy and advertising compliance.

James has been recognized by *Legal 500*, *LA Times Studios*, and the *Los Angeles Business Journal* as one of the leading entertainment lawyers in Los Angeles.

Services

- Litigation
- Entertainment Litigation
- General Commercial Litigation
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- Consumer Claim Defense
- High Net Worth & Probate Litigation
- Appellate Litigation
- Apparel & Accessories
- Artificial Intelligence
- Branded Consumer Products
- Crypto & NFTs
- Digital Media & Content Publishing
- Health & Beauty
- Sports
- Food & Beverage

Professional Affiliations

- Member, Trusted Advisor

Awards

- Listed in *Legal 500*, US Elite Los Angeles - Media and Entertainment (2026)
- Recognized in *LA Times Studios'* "Entertainment Business Visionaries" (2026)
- Recognized in *Los Angeles Business Journal's* (LABJ) "Leaders of Influence: Thriving in Their 40's" (2025)
- Listed by *LA Times Studios* as a "Legal Visionary" (2024)
- Recognized in *Los Angeles Business Journal's* (LABJ) "Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys" List (2022)
- Recognized as Inner City Law Center's Pro Bono Champion of the Month (July 2023)

Bar Admissions

- California
- Utah

Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the Central, Northern, Eastern and Southern Districts of California

Education

- University of California, Los Angeles School of Law (J.D., *Order of the Coif*, 2008)
 - Entertainment Law Review
 - Media Law and Policy Specialization
- University of Washington (B.A., 2005)
 - Political Science and Philosophy

Representative Matters

- Currently representing James Cameron in copyright litigation concerning the *Avatar* franchise.
- Successfully obtained a \$33 million arbitration award against T-Mobile under the Federal Communications Act, arising out of a SIM swap that led to the theft of millions in cryptocurrency. The ruling is the largest known award of its kind and included a significant attorneys' fee recovery following years of litigation and a multi-week arbitration.
- Represented production company in defense of contract action brought by creator of *Below Deck* reality show, culminating in week-long arbitration that resulted in complete victory for client.
- Represented Shelly Sterling in the \$2 billion sale of the Los Angeles Clippers to Steve Ballmer.

- Successfully defended the heirs of Bob Marley against federal lawsuit concerning the Marley Coffee brand.
- Successfully defended E! Entertainment against federal lawsuit alleging copyright violations.
- Obtained summary judgment for Warren Beatty in action concerning the rights to *Dick Tracy*, resulting in Mr. Beatty's exclusive retention of all rights to the character.
- Represented Uma Thurman in prosecution of multi-million dollar lawsuit concerning the motion picture *Eloise in Paris*, resulting in a seven-figure settlement for the client.