

Jeffrey G. Knowles

Partner

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Details

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Jeff Knowles is a trial lawyer practicing complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on intellectual property matters. Jeff has also served as a mediator and early neutral evaluator for the federal court in the Northern District of California since 2019, and he is periodically retained by parties to serve as a mediator in intellectual property litigation. He also acts as a settlement neutral for the Marin County Superior Court.

Jeff has represented clients in a broad array of industries, from Internet technology to consumer products and real estate. He has specific expertise in copyright, trademark, trade secret, Lanham Act, and other unfair competition cases, with deep experience in music-related litigation. Jeff obtained one of the first (and perhaps the first) injunctions under the federal Defend Trade Secrets Act in *Henry Schein Inc. v. Cook* 191 F. Supp. 3d 1072 (N. D. Cal. 2016).

Jeff also has deep experience in the music industry. He was co-lead counsel to the music publisher plaintiffs in the groundbreaking *Napster* case, in which the plaintiffs secured and successfully defended on appeal an injunction prohibiting the defendant from facilitating the unauthorized internet distribution of their copyrighted works. *See A&M Records, Inc., et al. v. Napster, Inc.*, 239 F.3d 1004 (9th Cir. 2001). He has also represented the major record labels in anti-piracy and other litigation, including in *Sony Music Entertainment, Inc. v. Radionomy* (N.D. Cal. 2016), an action against one of the world's largest webcasters for failure to obtain statutory licenses. Jeff has represented numerous recording artists and performing rights organizations, including BMI. He currently represents SoundExchange, the collective rights management organization that collects and distributes royalties for non-interactive digital audio transmissions.

Jeff served as a law clerk to the Honorable Eugene F. Lynch of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California (1987-1988), and prior to joining the firm, worked as a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. where he represented federal agencies in national impact litigation.

He served as the firm's co-managing partner from 2008 – 2018.

Jeff earned a degree in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles, and his law degree summa cum laude from the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco (Hastings). While at the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, he was an Articles Editor for the Hastings Law Journal and was elected to the Order of the Coif and the Thurston Society.

Honors & Awards

Jeff is listed in The Best Lawyers in America in the Commercial Litigation category and as a Northern California Super Lawyer.

Professional Activities

Jeff is a member of the American Bar Association's Intellectual Property and Litigation sections, as well as the Private Advertising Committee of the Antitrust Section. He is a member of the Copyright Society of the USA, as well as a member of the California Bar Association and the Bar Association of San Francisco.

Jeff has served as a moot court judge for Stanford University Law School and has spoken on internet and copyright issues at the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, Stanford University Law School, King Hall (UC Davis School of Law), and American University Law School in Washington, D.C. He has also been a guest speaker at conferences of the Intellectual Property Division of the Washington and Oregon Bar Associations.

Publications & Speaking Engagements

- Speaker, "Recent Developments in Music Copyright Law," Marin County Bar Association (May 2021)

- Speaker, “Intellectual Property Law Bootcamp,” Bay Area MCLE Conference (November 2020)
- Co-Author, “[The Music Modernization Act of 2018 and its Burgeoning Impact](#),” American Intellectual Property Law Association 2019 Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (October 2019)
- Speaker, “Emerging Issues in Music Copyright,” Practising Law Institute (July 2019)
- Author, “The Debate Over Sony-Betamax And Peer-To-Peer File Sharing: Will the Supreme Court Settle It in MGM v. Grokster?,” Computer & Internet Lawyer, Vol. 22, No. 3 (March 2005)

Education

- J.D., summa cum laude University of California College of the Law, San Francisco (1987)
- B.A., University of California, Los Angeles (1984)