

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME	LAWRENCE ABRAMSON
DATE OF BIRTH	10 May 1964
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	
September 1986 – September 1988	Trainee Solicitor with Sheridans
September 1988 to August 1996	Solicitor in the Entertainment Litigation Department of Denton Hall
September 1996 to July 1998	Senior Associate in the Litigation Department of Harbottle & Lewis
August 1998 to May 2010	Partner in the Litigation Department of Harbottle & Lewis (Managing Partner from August 2005 to July 2008)
June 2010 to December 2013	Partner and head of media at Fladgate LLP
January 2014 to date	Consultant Solicitor with Keystone Law

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Lawrence has extensive knowledge of all areas of the entertainment and media industries, including music, television, film, publishing, sport and interactive

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entertainment. His expertise covers a broad range of disputes and he has represented many high profile individuals and corporate organisations.

- Lawrence is lauded for his technical prowess and for being collaborative rather than prescriptive. Clients speak of him as “quick, cost-effective and thorough in his dealings”.

- He is also recommended as a legal expert in Media & Entertainment by the Legal Business Legal Experts 2012 and by the Legal 500 2012 which highlights his “pragmatic and responsive” approach.

- Among the best known cases Lawrence has worked on are:
 - Warner Bros v Channel 4 (Clockwork Orange) - still one of the leading cases on fair dealing involving a Channel 4 documentary on Stanley Kubrick's notorious film.
 - Ludlow v EMI (Jesus in a Camper Van) - a claim brought by Woody Guthrie's publishers alleging breach of copyright in two lines of a Woody Guthrie song in Robbie Williams' song, Jesus in a Camper Van.
 - Arief v Celador (Who wants to be a Millionaire) - a ten day trial following Celador's decision unlawfully to terminate its relationship with its Indonesian licensee.
 - ITV v BBC and Sky – a dispute over the TV rights to a world heavyweight boxing contest.
 - ITV v FA Premier League – An attempt by ITV to prevent the FAPL concluding an agreement with BskyB.
 - Swiss Bank v FA Premier League-a claim for commission on the sale of TV rights
 - Universal Television v Flextech – a dispute over a contract for the Jerry Springer series.
 - Fisher v Brooker (A Whiter Shade of Pale) - a claim by Procul Harum's keyboard player to be entitled to a share of the '60s classic 'A White Shade of Pale' which went all the way to the House of Lords, and was the last case to be determined by the House of Lords before it became the Supreme Court.
 - Wienerworld v Polygram-remedies available for breach of copyright
 - Century Communications v Mayfair – copyright in film produced in China
 - Experience Hendrix v Chalpin - a case which went to the Court of Appeal on the extent to which a claimant who had not suffered any quantifiable loss as a result of being in breach of contract could nevertheless recover damages.
 - Experience Hendrix v Times Newspapers - a ten day damages enquiry in respect of a Jimi Hendrix covermount.
 - Cairns v Modi – Britain's first libel action over a tweet

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- Forstater v Python (Monty) Pictures (Holy Grail) – a claim for rectification of a producer’s agreement against the members of Monty Python
- Lace and ors v Mayors Office for Policing and Crime (Enfield Riots) – a claim against the police for damages sustained by video labels from the destruction of the Sony warehouse during the riots.
- Henderson v All Around the World – infringement of performer’s rights

Other experience includes:.

- Acted for several major international film production and distribution companies in AFMA arbitrations.
- Acted for several banks in substantial actions against Lloyd’s and company insurers over completion guarantee insurance and in several actions against producers.
- Acted for several UK broadcasters in various disputes and clearance issues..
- Acted for various syndicates of insurers in defending claims brought by banks and at time variable contingent loss policies..
- Acted for various UK and European television production companies in various disputes.
- Acted for Completion Guarantor in claim against distribution company.
- Acted for US studio in distribution dispute with leading UK broadcaster
- Numerous actions in contract, copyright, trade marks and passing off for various DVD labels and computer games companies.
- Claim for breach of directors duties following executives leaving TV production company and setting up on their own.
- Minority shareholders action for former director of a games company.
- Libel clearance for book publishers and brought and defended numerous libel actions.

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- Appeals to Video Appeals Committee over BBFC decisions not to award certificates for computer games including judicial review application
- Numerous claims for and against concert and festival promoters.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Lawrence is on the panel of approved IFTA arbitrators (Independent Film and TV Alliance).
- Trustee of Cazfest, a charity that raises money to screen teenagers for heart defects.
- Member of the International Association of Entertainment Lawyers.
- Author of numerous articles in the United Kingdom on copyright and other entertainment issues.
- Outside interests include helping to raise 4 children, theatre and sports.