

**MICHAEL R. BLAHA**  
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**Santa Monica, CA 90403**  
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**EDUCATION:**

*Duke University School of Law (J.D. 1979)*

Quarterfinalist, National Moot Court Competition (Best Brief, Southeast Region)  
Treasurer, Student Bar Association  
Staff, Law and Contemporary Problems

*University of Miami (B.A. cum laude 1976)*

President, Student Senate  
Varsity Debate Team  
Union Board of Governors

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**LEGAL:**

*1992-Present: Law Offices of Michael R. Blaha*

Practice devoted exclusively to entertainment law, including transactional representation of producers, financiers, distributors, directors, writers, and actors in the motion picture, television, and video industries and record labels, recording artists, and songwriters (including soundtracks) and litigation including copyright, trademark, and First Amendment matters

Producer's Representative (e.g., *We Married Margo* [New Line]; *Rock Fresh* [Showtime]; *Cautiva* [Laemmle/Zeller Films])

***Southern California Super Lawyer 2012, 2013***

*1997-1998: Contract Counsel, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan*

Assisted firm partners in discovery, law and motion, and appellate work for First Amendment and commercial litigation matters

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*1990-1992: Of Counsel, Gradstein, Luskin & Van Dalsem*

Litigation including various contract, First Amendment, and intellectual property disputes in the entertainment industry

*1987-1989: Vice President, Legal Affairs - Lorimar Telepictures Corporation*

In-house counsel in charge of supervising all litigation matters on behalf of the corporation and devising and implementing legal procedures and documents for new theatrical distribution division

*1982-1989: Vice President, Distribution Legal Affairs and Associate General Counsel, Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc.*

In-house counsel responsible for supervising all litigation matters on behalf of the corporation, related clearance and due diligence activities, conducting labor union arbitrations, and counseling theatrical distribution division on antitrust and contract matters

*1979-1982: Lillick, McHose & Charles (merged into Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman)*

Associate responsible for law and motion, discovery, and trial preparation for products liability, maritime, and first amendment litigation matters

**EXPERT TESTIMONY**

*Lekus v. Carol Polakoff Productions*  
(Paris, France - 1998)

Submitted affidavit to French court on interpretation of California contract law in litigation between a writer client and producer

*Green Communications v. Beacon Communications*  
(AFMA Arbitration # 97/109 – 1998)

Testified for Claimant in arbitration regarding marketing value of title "AIR FORCE ONE" for motion picture

*Delighter v. Psi-Tech, et al.*  
(Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. SC047156 - 1999)

Designated by defendant to render expert opinion regarding meaning of video production and distribution agreements

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**TEACHING:**

*Adjunct Associate Professor of Law*  
*Southwestern University School of Law (1984-present)*

“Capstone Entertainment Law,” (co-created and co-taught inaugural J.D. class with Professor Robert Lind)

“Financing and Distribution of Independent Film,” (created and taught inaugural and subsequent J.D. classes, as well as Online LLM and Intersession versions)

“Trademark Issues in the Entertainment Industry” (created and taught inaugural and subsequent J.D. classes)

Also, numerous lectures on legal and business aspects of entertainment law to bar associations, universities, film festivals and labor unions

**BOARDS OF DIRECTORS:**

Academy for New Musical Theater (also President)

Filmmaker’s Alliance (also General Counsel)

**FILM PRODUCING CREDITS (partial list):**

“According to Occam’s Razor” (distribution: Elite Entertainment)

“Chi Girl” (Grand Jury Prize, Slamdance Film Festival; distribution: IFC)

“The Dogwalker” (distribution: Bigfoot Entertainment)

“The Legend of Beaver Dam” (Winner, Best Short [multiple film festivals]; Honorable Mention, Sundance Film Festival; distribution: Canal Plus)

“The Who: The Vegas Job” (distribution: Passport Entertainment)

“Tropicalia” (Telluride Film Festival)