

Grubman Shire Meiselas & Sacks, P.C.

Featured as one of last year's *HITS* Rainmakers, **Allen Grubman** is the founder of the firm now known as Grubman Shire Meiselas & Sacks. Originally a music law firm, the practice has expanded over the last two decades into all areas of the entertainment business, and it now stands as the largest transactional entertainment law practice in the world.

Founded in 1974, the firm's roster includes many of the most prominent individuals and companies in the biz. Allen's clients include **Bruce Springsteen**, **U2**, **Madonna**, **Sting**, **Elton John**, **Lionel Richie**, **Barbra Streisand**, **Bette Midler** and **Andrew Lloyd Webber**, among others. Grubman also counsels major record and publishing companies, along with **MTV**, **Live Nation** and many media CEOs.

Grubman has established himself as a confidante of the industry's biggest stars and moguls, a fierce negotiator and a dealmaker of the highest order, all while being the most color-



Allen Grubman

ful attorney in the biz.

In 1991, **Larry Shire** joined the firm focusing on entertainment law outside the music world, including motion pictures, TV, theater, publishing, sports and licensing. As media evolved,

Shire's practice morphed into new media, as the firm now works with **Facebook**, **Spotify**, **iHeartMedia** and others in the digital, OTT and podcast arena.

Shire's practice also includes crossover work, wherein the firm

guides music clients as they venture into other areas of entertainment. Among these partnerships are **Elton John's** involvement in the film *Rocketman* with **Paramount Pictures**, **The Boss'** deal with **Netflix** for *Springsteen on Broadway*, **Madonna's** film work and the **Estate of David Bowie** in all its activities.

The film, TV and new media department has recently worked on deals for **LeBron James** (lifetime **Nike** deal), **Robert De Niro** (*The Irishman*), Broadway and film producer **Scott Rudin** (*To Kill a Mockingbird*), **Spike Lee** (*BlackkKlansman*), **Gayle King** and **David Letterman** among others.

Longtime partners **Karen Gottlieb (Dr. Oz)**, **Peter Grant** (De Niro) and **Robert Strent** (Spike Lee and **Shay Mitchell**) do much of the highly skilled heavy lifting in all these areas. **Jonathan Lonner** and **Adam Rosen** help drive the theater side of the practice, **Jonathan Ehrlich** has become the firm's book publishing guru and **Stuart Fried** helps lead the branding and licensing team. Young lawyers such as **Jordan Manekin**, **Jane Gross**, **David Ashley** and

Ted Fisher as well as veterans like **Jonathan Birkhahn** and **Gil Karson** work on all facets of the department's thriving practice.

Kenny Meiselas is the head of the music department at the firm. The department specializes in the representation of elite superstar artists in all genres of music. Classic artists repped include **AC/DC**, **Rod Stewart**, the **Estate of Whitney Houston**, **Barbra Streisand** and **Bette Midler**. Next-generation superstars **Lady Gaga**, **The Weeknd**, **Sean "Diddy" Combs**, **Usher**, **Norah Jones**, **OutKast** and **Andre 3000**, as well as hip-hop giants **Lil Wayne**, **Nas**, **Rick Ross**, **Rae Sremmurd**, **Nav** and **Future**, are advised by Meiselas' team.

In addition to the roster of generational talent, the firm also counsels rising stars **Ella Mai**, **Bebe Rexha**, **Jhene Aiko**, **Madison Beer** and **Carly Rae Jepsen**, along with songwriting and production talents **David Foster**, **Timbaland**, **Avicii Estate**, **Esther Dean**, **Victoria Monet** and **Tayla Parx**.

Leading the next generation of young lawyers at the firm is **David Jacobs**. He represents next-gen artists, many of whom were subjects of huge bidding wars, including **Jessie Reyez**, **Dominic Fike**, **Lil Nas X** and **Sheck Wes**, as well as producers **Turbo**, **Malay**, **Andrew Wyatt**, **Take A Day Trip** and **Gesaffelstein**. Attorney **Matt Kamen** represents **A Boogie Wit da Hoodie** and actress/singer **Isabela Moner**, and **Grace Kim** oversees the critically acclaimed **Lizzo**.

Veteran legal eagles who work side by side with Meiselas and Grubman on the superstar artists include **Joe Brenner**, **Sonya Guardo**, **Don Friedman**, **Joseph Penachio**, **Pamela Gurley**, **Ted Harris** and **Nick Zabawsky**. Guardo looks after **Priyanka Chopra** and **Mary J Blige**.

Brenner oversees Spotify, **Group Nine**, **Genius** and other new media ventures, as well as **Sting** and **U2** (with **David Toraya**). **Stuart Prager** heads the



music publishing department, while **Michael Goldsmith** leads touring. A team of young lawyers including **Diana Kovacs**, **Oren Agman**, **Evan Levane** and **Ilana Shapiro** round out the music team.

Transactions negotiated for

the firm's clients include not only customary music-based deals for records, publishing, touring and merchandising, but also media-based transactions, sponsorships, endorsements, equity agreements and strategic partnerships in

Top: Kyle Zimmerman, Eric Sacks, Branch Furtado, Jona Lundborg; Middle: Larry Shire, Kenny Meiselas; Bottom: Robert Strent, Karen Gottlieb, Peter Grant

branding apparel, fragrance, spirits, film and television.

Eric Sacks is head of the corporate department at the firm. Under Sacks' leadership, the department has grown significantly over the past few years. The corporate department handles many sophisticated transactions across the firm's practice areas. Along with giant media companies like **Discovery**, **LeBron's Spring Hill**, **Vice Media**, **MSG Company**, **UMG**, **SME** and **WMG**, the department has advised many high-profile execs in their employment arrangements, including **Bob Iger**, **Michael Rapino**, **Jim Dolan**, **Richard Plepler**, **Marty Bandier** and **Sir Lucian Grainge**.

The Corporate Department's dedicated corporate lawyers include partner **Branch Furtado**, who oversees the transactions for several clients, including **Discovery**, **Vice Media**, and **Industrial Media**, and seasoned associates **Jona Lundborg**, **Perri Birnbach** and **Kyle Zimmerman**. ■