

Grubman Shire Meiselas & Sacks, P.C.



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This past year was monumental for Grubman Shire Meiselas & Sacks, as its founder and mentor **Allen Grubman** became the first practicing lawyer to be inducted into the **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame**. The firm's partners all went to L.A. to see Grubman accept this well-deserved honor.

In the first full year of touring's post-pandemic return, the firm represented some of the biggest tours in the biz, including stadium runs for **The Weeknd**, **Lady Gaga** and **Bruce Springsteen**; arena tours for **Madonna**, **Chris Brown**, **Lizzo** and **Nas**; and hugely successful tours for **Lil Wayne**, **Carly Rae Jepsen**, and **Nav**, the critically acclaimed Vegas residency for **Usher** and the highly anticipated debut headlining treks for **Lil Nas X** and **Zach Bryan**, among others. The firm also closed several of the largest catalog sales in history last year for iconic artists **Springsteen**, **Paul Simon**, **Sting** and the Estate of **David Bowie**, as well as catalog deals for **Sarah McLachlan** and **Jhené Aiko**.

One of the firm's great strengths is how the three main departments—music, film/TV and corporate—work together. Music clients continue to expand in film and TV, with **The Weeknd** producing and starring in the highly anticipated **HBO** series *The Idol*; **Lizzo** extending her first-look deal with **Amazon** and winning an **Emmy** for her first show under that deal, *Watch Out for the Big Grrrls*; and **Lady Gaga** starring as **Harley Quinn** in **Warner Bros.**' forthcoming *Joker* sequel.

The firm's non-recording artist clients continued to expand their footprints and achieve even higher levels of success. **LeBron James**

entered into multiple new endorsement deals while the firm also started representing **LeBron's** talented sons, **Bronny** and **Bryce**, as NIL-endorsement deals exploded for high school and college athletes. **Robert De Niro** signed on to do his first television series, *Zero Day* (**Netflix**), and **Ana de Armas'** star continues to ascend, while legendary theater composer **Andrew Lloyd Weber** launched a new Broadway show, *Bad Cinderella*.

The firm's other named partners—**Kenny Meiselas** (head of music), **Larry Shire** (head of film/TV/sports) and **Eric Sacks** (head of corporate)—each run their own groups, but in a manner that provides seamless integration when meeting the multiplatform and entrepreneurial needs of their clients, providing them with unmatched representation across all aspects of their careers.

Grubman continues to work with all the departments in negotiating deals for the firm's superstar clients, including **Springsteen** (with music partner **Don Friedman**), **U2** (with music partners **Joe Brenner** and **David Toraya**), **Madonna** (with music counsel **Michael Goldsmith**, who also heads the firm's touring department), **Sting** (with **Brenner**), **Bette Midler**, **Elton John** and more, as well as corporate clients **Universal Music Group**, **Sony Music**, **Live Nation**, **iHeartMedia** and **Spotify**. Grubman works with **Sacks** on employment agreements for and provides counsel to many of the top CEOs in music and media. He was heavily involved in each of the iconic catalog sales, with the transactions captained by **Stuart Prager**, head of the music-publishing department, with assistance from veteran music partners **Brenner** and **Friedman**, corporate partner **Branch Furtado** and music associate **Brooke Schachner**.



Clockwise from top left: Eric Sacks, Kenny Meiselas, Larry Shire, David Jacobs; Jacobs (far right) with Miles Gersh, Stefan Max, Zach Bryan, Danny Kang

Meiselas reps superstars like The Weeknd (with partner **Joe Penachio**), Lady Gaga (with counsel **Sony Guardo**), Sean “Diddy” Combs, Usher (both with partner **Pam Gurley**), Lizzo (with partner **Grace Kim**), Lil Wayne, Jhené Aiko, Nas (all with partner **Ted Harris**) and Chris Brown (with partner **Matt Kamen**, who also represents **A Boogie Wit da Hoodie** and model **Winnie Harlow**).

Partner **David Jacobs** reps next-gen talent including Lil Nas X, Zach Bryan, **Kali Uchis** and **Nigo**, along with the hitmaking producer team **Take a Daytrip** and boxer **Gervonta “Tank” Davis**. **Grace Kim** discovered and represents **Lizzo**, along with Meiselas, while also assisting him with rising stars **GAYLE** and **Nessa Barrett**.

Meiselas and partners are assisted by a team of respected associates—including **Ilana Shapiro**, **Diana Kovacs**, **Evan Levane**, **Mica Rollock**, **Schachner** and **Nick DeLisa**—who collaborate with other departments to negotiate deals across film/TV, theater and corporate matters.

Film/TV department partner **Peter Grant** reps de Armas and worked on Gaga’s *Joker* sequel deal, and partner **Jonathan Ehrlich** and associate **Daniela Cassorla** collaborated on The Weeknd’s *The Idol* pact, while Meiselas and film/TV partner **Karen Gottlieb** represented **Jessica Simpson** in her dealings with Amazon. Similarly, film/TV partner **Robert Strent** (whose clients include *New York Magazine* and actress/entrepreneur **Shay Mitchell**) worked with Kim and Meiselas on Lizzo’s agreement with Amazon as well as docuseries and concert-film deals with HBO. On the corporate side, associate **Jona Lundborg** assists Meiselas with the transactional work for The Weeknd, while Sacks and associate **Kyle Zimmerman** work with Meiselas on all the corporate dealings for Diddy.

Shire’s diverse client base includes **LeBron James**, **Spike Lee**, **David Letterman**, the **New England Patriots**, **J Balvin**, **Andrew Lloyd Webber**, **Arnold Schwarzenegger** and **Robert De Niro**, as well as dynamic figures like **Martha Stewart**, CNN CEO **Chris Licht**, **Gayle King**, **Andrew Ross Sorkin**, **Diane Sawyer** and the estates of **David Bowie** and **David Byrne**. He also works with partners **Jonathan Lonner**, **Adam Rosen** and **Gil Karson** on theater projects, and they have been at the center of some of Broadway’s biggest recent productions, including *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Webber’s *Bad Cinderella* and *The Music Man*. They also represented UMG in connection with a new musical based on the life of **Frank Sinatra**, and **Elton John** on his musicals *Tammy Faye* and *The Devil Wears Prada*.

Ehrlich and partner **Eric Zohn** are responsible for handling

the firm’s biggest book-publishing deals, including those for **Springsteen**, **Bono**, **Lizzo** and **Priyanka Chopra**.

In addition, partner **Jonathan Birkhahn** works with Shire and the corporate department on crossover projects, including various joint ventures for **iHeartMedia**. Shire’s group also does a significant amount of pro-bono work for his clients. They represent the **LeBron James Family Foundation** in educating and enriching the lives of underprivileged schoolchildren in Akron, Ohio, and **The Earl Monroe New Renaissance School** in the Bronx.

The firm also reps top sports executives including **New York Knicks** President **Leon Rose** and **CAA Sports** co-heads **Michael Levine** and **Howie Nuchow**, along with **Brenner and Sacks’** joint representation of fantasy-sports guru **Matthew Berry**.

Gottlieb oversees film/TV projects and podcasts for corporate clients, with assistance from the film/TV department’s set of next-gen lawyers, including **Cassorla**, **Matza**, **Sharma** and **Samantha Sheft** and associate **Jack Liechtung**.

Stuart Fried leads the licensing department alongside associate **Julia Reeves Blumenthal**. Recent examples include **Lizzo’s** new shapewear joint venture with **Fabletics** and the launch of **Bethenny Frankel’s Forever Young** wine. Among the licensing department’s music partnerships are liquor-brand incubator **Global Brand Equities** and its wine venture with **Post Malone** and **Mariah Carey’s Black Irish** liqueur line.

In other recent activity, emerging pop-rock star **Nessa Barrett**, signed to **Warner Records**, just completed her first North American tour, playing three sold-out shows in both N.Y. and L.A. in front of 7,500+ fans. **GAYLE**, hand-picked by **Taylor Swift** to open up for her on **The Eras Tour**, had a top 5 hit with “ABCDEFU,” which was nominated for a 2023 **Grammy** for Song of the Year. **Ethan Bortnick** (**Columbia**) and **Madison Beer** (**Epic**) are other bright young talents repped by the firm. ■

Clockwise from left: Shire and Sacks at LeBron James event, Meiselas with Nessa Barrett, with The Weeknd

