



Ashley R. Yeargan

 Los Angeles

 ayeargan@raklaw.com

 310.826.7474

PRACTICE AREAS

Media & Entertainment

Litigation & Trial

Apparel & Fashion

Ashley R. Yeargan is a partner at Russ August & Kabat and the co-chair of its Media & Entertainment group. She has represented a variety of clients in the media and entertainment industry, including actors, directors, writers, producers, musical artists, managers, small studios, production companies, and video game companies. Ashley focuses her practice on matters involving defamation, rights of privacy and publicity, copyright and trademark infringement, and breach of contract. She has litigated in federal and state courts as well as before various arbitral tribunals in California.

EDUCATION

Stanford Law School (J.D.,
with distinction)

Yale University (B.A., summa
cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa,
Phi Alpha Theta)

Billboard recognized Ashley in its “Top Music Lawyers” list from 2022-2025. The Hollywood Reporter recognized Ashley in 2021, 2022, and 2023 on its “Power Lawyers: Hollywood’s Top 100 Attorneys” list and on its “2016 Top 35 Under 35” list of executives in the entertainment industry. Variety featured Ashley as “Up Next” in Entertainment Litigation in 2016, as a Hollywood “New Leader” in 2022, and in its Legal Impact Report in 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Ashley was named a 2024 “Business of Entertainment Visionary” in The Envelope magazine distributed by the Los Angeles Times. She has been recognized by Southern California Super Lawyers as a Rising Star from 2012-2020 and 2022 and as a Super Lawyer from 2023 – 2025, as well as selected by her peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch from 2021 – 2025. *Los Angeles Business Journal* recognized Ashley as one of LA’s most influential attorneys on its 2020 “Top Women Lawyers” list.

RECENT MATTERS

Below are examples of Ashley's current and recently-resolved matters:

- Representing Drake in several matters in California, New York, Canada, and Florida, including the recently-resolved trademark case brought against him by Condé Nast in connection with his parody cover of *Vogue* magazine.
- Representing Simon Cowell and his company Syco Entertainment in a variety of matters, including with respect to *America's Got Talent* and new formats that are in development.
- Providing ongoing legal counsel to Tokyo Broadcasting System Television, Inc., in connection with US projects, including the series *American Ninja Warrior* and *America's Funniest Home Videos*.
- Representing high-profile individuals in obtaining retractions (and takedowns) from online and print entertainment news media.
- Representing *Bar Rescue*'s Jon Taffer in litigation against an impersonator.
- Defended Black Label Media in a vicarious copyright infringement case involving the 2022 Whitney Houston biopic.
- Defended Kendall Jenner's 818 Tequila in a trademark and trade dress infringement case brought by the owners of Tequila 512.
- Resolved a dispute clouding chain of title to a documentary film and assisted with the delivery of that film to a U.S. distributor.
- Defended a producer and show runner in connection with breach of oral contract claims involving credit and compensation in connection with the Netflix animated series *Castlevania*.
- Represented the Trustees of the Carroll Hall Shelby Trust in litigation against a trust beneficiary.
- Won a federal court jury trial for reality television star Camille Grammer in a defamation and malicious prosecution lawsuit filed by her ex-boyfriend after she reported that he assaulted her.
- Represented Jamie Spears in his capacity as conservator of the Estate of Britney J. Spears in litigation against a blogger and other media matters.
- Represented producer Dana Brunetti in claims for credit and compensation in connection with the television series "Manhunt."

RUSS AUGUST & KABAT

- Represented Blake Shelton in his defamation action against Bauer Publishing in connection with *In Touch* magazine's publication of the false and defamatory cover story "REHAB For Blake." Shelton defeated Bauer's anti-SLAPP motion to dismiss, and the matter was resolved.
- Represented Sharad Patel in a breach of contract claim against the Estate of Michael Jackson concerning a motion picture about Jackson's life and life story using assets of his library.
- Represented two high-profile actors in confidential commissions disputes with their managers that were successfully resolved prior to litigation.
- Represented Ciara in a false light invasion of privacy case against her former boyfriend Future.
- Obtained the anti-SLAPP dismissal of a trade libel and interference case against musician Drake related to statements regarding the theatrical release of a film entitled *Drake's Homecoming*.
- Represented Dan Lin, Roy Lee and Doug Davison in their dispute against Legendary regarding credit and compensation in connection with the feature film *Godzilla*.
- Represented Tokyo Broadcasting System Television, Inc., in a copyright infringement case against American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. and Endemol USA in connection with their reality program *Wipeout*.
- Represented a television actress in a dispute involving the alleged breach of an agreement to provide endorsement services.

PUBLICATIONS

- "Addressing the Limitations of the Right of Publicity in the World of AI" *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, October 23, 2023
- "Are Confidential Settlements Possible in the Wake of #MeToo?," *Keeping It Honest: Transparency and Legal Issues in the Entertainment Industry*, edited by Dina La Polt, Jessie Winkler, and Lindsay Arrington, 2019.
- "Scripting a Resolution: The Advantages of Mediation in the Entertainment Industry," *USC Spotlight Entertainment Law Journal*, 2017 (Inaugural issue).
- "This land is your land, and this song may be your song," *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, June 28, 2016

- “One Last Swing at Google Books Project,” *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, January 12, 2016
- “Google Books decision is logical evolution of law,” *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, November 2, 2015
- “Batmobile Captures Copyright Protection,” *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, October 6, 2015