Entertainment Law

Blaney McMurtry’s Entertainment Law Group has helped its clients understand, appreciate and manage the complexities of developing, producing, and exploiting their creative works as well as protecting their intellectual property rights. We have assisted clients through the various stages of development and commercialization of artistic, choreographic, cinematographic, dramatic, literary or musical works. Our group also has the benefit of drawing upon the expertise of our firm’s other specialty groups in areas such as immigration, tax, financing, labour and employment, construction law, litigation and securities law.

FILM, TELEVISION AND MEDIA
Advising on all matters pertaining to the development, production and exploitation of feature films, television series, digital series and other audio-visual productions, including:

- Incorporation and corporate structuring
- Chain of Title
- Option and Purchase Agreements
- Cast and Crew Deal Memos
- Script review and clearance
- Release package
- Financing and Interim Financing Agreements
- Music licensing
- Tax Credits
- Errors and Omissions insurance
- Broadcast Licences and Distribution Agreements
- Obscenity and defamation matters and other limitations to freedom of expression on behalf of social media and internet providers

Intellectual property rights services in connection with the entertainment industry on the following issues:

- Clearance, registration and enforcement of rights
- Copyright, and moral rights, trademarks, industrial designs and patents
- Valuation of intellectual property rights
Anti-bootlegging and anti-piracy strategies
Copyright Board representation with respect to rates proposed by collectives related to rights of composers, authors, publishers, performers and photographers
Merchandise license agreements
Policy submissions to the federal government
Representation before the Copyright Board, Federal Court and Supreme Court of Canada

MUSIC
Advising as to intellectual property rights, including:
Copyright and moral rights, trademarks and domain names
Performers’ rights and neighbouring rights
Rights acquisition and management
Music licensing and incorporation of third party works

Representation of artists, bands, publishers, record labels, managers and agents to assist on the following:
Establishment of optimal corporate structure
Management Agreements
Agency Agreements
Publishing Agreements
Label Licence Agreements
Master Use Synchronization Licence Agreements
Producer Agreements
Navigating intellectual property rights ownership as well as music exploitation and distribution complications

SOCIAL MEDIA LAW
Representation of both influencers and brands in connection with the negotiation and drafting of influencer service agreements for various social media platforms. We also provide general legal advice to protect and/or enforce intellectual property rights ownership.

PUBLISHING
Advising as to copyright, including:
Copyright, trademarks and moral rights
Co-authorship
Rights acquisition
Rights management
• Licensing and incorporation of third party works

Negotiation of the first digital rights licence for the use of literary works throughout the Ontario public service.

GAMING LAW

Advising on gaming laws in Canada, including laws regulating:

• Land-based casinos
• Charity casinos
• Internet gambling
• Lotteries
• Video lottery terminals and slot machines
• Sports and race wagering
• Tax related issues

RELATED PRACTICES

• Real Estate & Business
• Employment & Labour
• Tax