

Karen M. Robson

Senior Counsel



Los Angeles, CA



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Karen Robson is a highly experienced member of Pryor Cashman's Media + Entertainment group. The first female partner in the firm, Karen founded the Los Angeles office of the firm in 2003 (after practicing in the firm's New York office for a number of years). A transactional lawyer, Karen is an experienced deal maker in media and entertainment.

A Savvy Hollywood Dealmaker

Karen is a member of the firm's Media + Entertainment, Banking + Finance, Intellectual Property, Corporate, and Digital Media Groups.

A seasoned professional, Karen plays both the traditional entertainment lawyer role and acts as an advisor and counsellor on corporate, finance and investment deals largely in the media space. She has represented financiers, banks, equity, investors, hedge funds, studios, networks and production and distribution companies. She also advises individual content creators, including writers, directors, and producers with a particular interest in representing female creators. She has worked extensively in many aspects of media including motion pictures, television and streaming, merchandising, podcasts, adaption of underlying properties in live theater, book publishing, music, art transactions, advertising deals, live events, family and children's entertainment, animation, and reality and unscripted entertainment. She has represented both buyers and sellers of libraries of intellectual property rights (and royalty rights) in multiple arenas including film, TV, music publishing, master sound recordings and literary publishing rights and investors in various businesses such as talent agencies, management companies, SVOD platforms, and production and distribution companies. She has provided advice to start up media companies and creators of funds for finance of the development and production and distribution for slates of films, programs, and other intellectual property rights. She has worked also with the Family Law and Trust and Estates departments at the firm in structuring ownership, sales, and financing of such rights.

A native of Australia, Karen is a self-described "multicultural aficionado" who closely follows the entertainment industry's emerging markets around the globe and the business, financial and technical innovations that are shaping its future, including AI. She has an extensive network in the global media business having represented many international companies in the US including a major Australian television network and media company, a major Japanese hardware and content distributor and investor, and many high-net-worth individuals from around the world investing in US media entities, including from the UK, Australia, France, Germany, Spain, Brazil, U.A.E., Argentina and Sweden.

Before embarking on a legal career, she had a brief career as an actress in Australia, including a major role in the Peter Weir cult favorite "Picnic at Hanging Rock." She also worked as a producer and in direct distribution of feature films and documentaries. Karen's insider perspective and entrepreneurial outlook enhance her ability to

negotiate cutting-edge joint venture, production and distribution agreements, financings, and acquisitions. Karen enjoys bringing together the skills and expertise of the talented lawyers in the NY, LA, and Miami offices of Pryor Cashman to serve each client's various legal needs.

Services

- Celebrity Branding + Talent Representation
- Copyright
- Corporate
- Intellectual Property
- Media + Entertainment
- M+E Transactions and Financing
- Film, TV + Podcast

Education

- University of Sydney (LL.B., 1981)
- University of Sydney (B.A., 1979)
 - First Class Honors

Recognition

- Named a leading attorney in Entertainment: Motion Pictures + Television by *Best Lawyers in America* (2015-26)
- Named a leading attorney in Entertainment Law by *Southern California's Best Lawyers* (2022)
- Named in the *Super Lawyers - Southern California* list in entertainment and sports law (2013-18)
- Named among the top 30 media attorneys in the U.S. by *Best of the Best USA* (2017)
- Shortlisted in the "Best in Media & Entertainment" category of Euromoney's *LMG Americas Women in Business Law Awards* (2012)

Admissions

- California, 2003
- New York, 1986

Professional Affiliations

- Member of the Board of Directors of Australians in Film
- Member of the Board of Directors of University of Sydney USA Foundation
- Member of the British Academy of Film and Television (BAFTA)

Professional Activities

- Australians in Film
- British Academy of Film and Television (BAFTA)
- Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media

Publications

December 23, 2024

Robson Interviewed by The Australian Financial Review
The Australian Financial Review

July 20, 2023

Estate Planning + Family Law for Writers: Key Takeaways

April 27, 2023

AI Voice Tech: Potential Uses for Spoken Performance (and Related Legal Issues)

June 24, 2020

A Producer's Guide to Restarting Film and TV Production Internationally

June 17, 2020

A Producer's Guide to Restarting Film and TV Production in the U.S. (Updated)

April 3, 2017

Poller, Robson and Fotovat Explore the Challenges of Dividing IP Assets in Divorce

December 15, 2013

Entertainment Law, Fourth Edition

May 14, 2012

JOBS Act to Help Filmmakers Raise Capital