

Rohit Nath Named a Sports and Entertainment Litigation Trailblazer by National Law Journal


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SUSMAN GODFREY

Rohit Nath has been named a Sports and Entertainment Trailblazer by the *National Law Journal* in its second compilation of lawyers who are leaders in sports and entertainment industry litigation. Nath has established a successful practice of pursuing entertainment-related intellectual property cases on behalf of artists, such as musicians and writers. Not only does Nath secure winning decisions for the artists he represents, but his cases are focused on cutting-edge issues related to the impact of rapid technological change in the music and publishing industries.

Nath currently represents Flo & Eddie (the founding members of 60's music group, The Turtles) along with a class of owners of pre-1972 sound recordings for copyright violations by music providers Sirius XM and Pandora. Flo & Eddie settled with Sirius XM in a deal, which was approved by the Court, worth up to \$73 million. Nath is now litigating a similar action against Pandora.



ROHIT NATH
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PIONEER SPIRIT Rohit Nath's interest in entertainment law began after taking a copyright course in law school. "I was hooked by the fact that entertainment law involved the First Amendment and property laws and how it was based on trying to understand the way these principles applied to a rapidly changing world both economically and technologically."

TRAILS BLAZED Nath represented Flo and Eddie, the founding members of the musical group The Turtles, in a class action against Pandora Media and Sirius XM, alleging unlicensed use of the band's pre-1972 sound recordings. "The complaint was filed in 2014. But while pending, Congress passed the Music Modernization Act. We are currently back in court, arguing how that affects our case, and we will likely be one of the first cases regarding pre-1972 music." Nath is also representing authors and professors in a case against textbook publisher Cengage Learning alleging systematic underpayment of royalties for sales of textbooks. "Cengage unveiled its online platform, which has become the 'Netflix of textbooks,' and started shorting authors their royalties per their agreements. This is another first-of-its-kind case on how textbook authors will be treated as the industry moves to a more digital model." Active in the Los Angeles legal community, Nath also serves as co-president of the South Asian Bar Association and is a member of the executive committee of the litigation section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Nath believes additional questions will arise between creators and rights holders as entertainment companies increasingly deliver content through streaming and other models. "Delivery models have changed rapidly, and as more industries get deeper into a streaming model, those questions will continue to dominate how we think about film publishing and music rights."

Nath also represents a putative class of professors and textbook authors in *Bernstein, et al. v. Cengage Learning, Inc.*, a lawsuit against one of the world's largest textbook publishers, Cengage Learning, related to underpayment of royalties for electronic textbook offerings.

See the full list of Sports and Entertainment Litigation Trailblazers [here](#).