



## Ryan Q. Keech

### Partner

Los Angeles  
+1.310.552.5070

[Ryan.Keech@klgates.com](mailto:Ryan.Keech@klgates.com)

## OVERVIEW

Ryan Q. Keech is a partner and a member of the Intellectual Property Litigation practice group. Ryan's practice focuses on high-stakes media and entertainment, complex business, and non-patent intellectual property disputes.

Ryan has successfully represented US and international clients in trial and appellate litigation and arbitration in a wide variety of industries, including feature and television production, music, toys and other consumer products, cosmetics, financial services, fashion, monoline bond insurance, government, fund management and activist investing, social media, and mobile technology. He has significant experience handling disputes involving copyright, trademark, trade dress, trade secrets, business torts, complex contract interpretation, antitrust, unfair competition, false advertising, and FTC claims. Ryan is regularly trusted to advise, counsel, and handle mediation, litigation, and arbitration - frequently on a confidential basis - involving profit participation, film and television production and distribution patterns, intellectual property, allegations of on- or off-set misconduct, collective bargaining, labor relations, and initial and residual compensation issues.

## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Ryan was a partner with a Los Angeles-based litigation firm. Earlier, Ryan served as in-house counsel for the trade association charged with representing the major studios, broadcast television networks, and certain basic cable and pay television services in labor negotiations and related matters in the US and Canada. Ryan began his career with a global litigation firm. Over the course of his career, Ryan has represented clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to individual artists and entrepreneurs in matters spanning from bet-the-company litigation to more routine litigation and negotiations.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Selected to the Southern California Rising Stars list, 2021 - 2024

## PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Member, Association of Business Trial Lawyers Los Angeles
- Member, Beverly Hills Bar Association

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, "The Shifting Sands of Offensive Trademarks," World Intellectual Property Review Panel Discussion (22 July 2021)
- Speaker, "Trial Strategies in U.S. Trademark Litigation," WIPR Trademarks Live (9 June 2021)

## EDUCATION

- J.D., New York University School of Law
- LL.B., York University Osgoode Hall Law School
- B.A., Queen's University at Kingston

## ADMISSIONS

- Bar of California
- Bar of District of Columbia
- United States District Court for the Central District of California
- United States District Court for the District of Columbia
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
- United States District Court for the Northern District of California
- United States District Court for the Southern District of California

## LANGUAGES

- French

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 5 February 2024, Jury Clears Los Angeles Tattoo Artist of All Copyright Infringement Claims in One of the First Significant Post-Warhol Transformative Use Cases

## NEWS & EVENTS

- 9 May 2023, K&L Gates Bolsters Corporate, IP Practices with Los Angeles Partner Additions

## MEDIA MENTIONS

- "Intellectual property, artificial intelligence and the law," *Commercial Dispute Resolution*, 22 January 2024

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- IP Litigation
- Commercial Disputes

## INDUSTRIES

- Consumer Products
- Luxury Products and Fashion

## EMERGING ISSUES

- Social Media Law

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Defending against claims arising out of confrontation at home of high-profile former Los Angeles County elected official pending in Los Angeles Superior Court. Obtained dismissal with prejudice of claims related to deprivation of speech rights and of false imprisonment claims.
- Representing Beverly Hills-based small-cap fund in connection with activist engagement arising out of diminution in shareholder value associated with cumulative effect of #MeToo-related allegations against creative executive of globally-recognized Los Angeles fashion company.
- Representing former executive of and stockholder in Ohio-based sterilization company in multi-jurisdiction litigation related to company's use of ethylene oxide in sterilization process in Illinois, Georgia, and New Mexico and conversion of executive's stock.
- Representing high-profile entertainers, content creators, and influencers in evaluating and enforcing intellectual property rights.
- Representing parties in evaluating, assessing, asserting, and defending against accounting and related profit participation claims arising out of failure to properly account for revenue and expenses associated with backend profits deals and related rights connected with multiple feature and television projects.

- Successfully represented Florida real estate developers and religious university in defending RICO, trade secrets, and intentional interference action in Southern District of Florida related to luxury Palm Beach real estate development. Obtained dismissal with prejudice of RICO and specific performance claims at pleading stage.
- Successfully represented independent studio and related profit participants in arbitrating claims related to fraudulent licensing of high-profile theatrical motion picture in syndication and pay television markets in violation of distribution agreements and California law.
- Successfully represented San Diego-based public entity as lead plaintiff in Southern District of New York class action related to antitrust misconduct in the municipal bond market related to variable rate demand obligations. Defeated limitations-based motion to dismiss.
- Successfully represented internationally-recognized clothing and fashion accessories brand in asserting trademark infringement claims against global print-on-demand company. Defeated motion for summary judgment and, in one of the first federal civil jury trials to be tried to verdict in Los Angeles after the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, obtained jury verdict finding contributory infringement of client's protected marks.
- Successfully represented California-based restaurant trade association in obtaining groundbreaking preliminary injunctive and other writ relief against Los Angeles County COVID-19 outdoor dining restrictions on federal and state constitutional grounds.
- Successfully represented television writer in asserting claims related to high-profile television project under WGA Minimum Basic Agreement.
- Successfully represented high-profile feature director in defending against claims of breach of contract related to production delay under DGA Basic Agreement.
- Successfully represented founders of Southern California-based packaging company in asserting derivative and direct claims in connection with founders dispute. Obtained writ relief from the California Court of Appeal, Second District rejecting attempt by parties represented by conflicted counsel to compel claims to arbitration on the basis of invalid arbitration agreement.
- Successfully represented founders of and principal shareholders in Southern California clinical trial company in asserting derivative and direct claims arising out of battle for corporate control, resulting in favorable settlement.
- Successfully represented high-profile New York-based luxury executive in multi-jurisdiction arbitration and litigation arising from wrongful ouster from and control of New York-based fashion company.
- Successfully represented Los Angeles apparel company in defending against claims of trademark infringement related to rights in the manufacture and sale of apparel on which words are displayed.
- Successfully represented film and television producer as plaintiff in declaratory judgment action in Central District of California over claims of copyright in architectural plans, obtaining prompt settlement permitting high-end residential real estate project to proceed.

- Successfully represented Los Angeles-based lifestyle brand in declaratory judgment action defending line of toys against claims of copyright infringement asserted by global toy manufacturer.
- Successfully represented Beverly Hills-based small-cap fund in staying litigation and as lead arbitration counsel in multi-day AAA arbitration in case involving claims for breach of contract, wrongful termination in violation of public policy, and trade secret misappropriation.
- Successfully defended Los Angeles-based advertising agency in litigation arising from alleged breach of digital media planning agreement related to an experiential marketing campaign for internationally-recognized line of toys.
- Obtained preliminary injunction in the Central District of California halting all advertising and sales of competing product based on claims of trademark, trade dress, and copyright infringement. Prevailed on subsequent appeal to Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Obtained case-ending terminating sanctions prior to trial, including a seven-figure judgment with a full award of damages, over \$1 million in attorneys' fees and a permanent injunction, in a trademark, trade dress, and RICO conspiracy case in the Central District of California.
- Obtained summary judgment completely defeating eight-figure contract and tort claims brought by former independent contractor in Los Angeles Superior Court.
- Part of trial team that obtained seven-figure judgment for client on trademark and trade dress counterclaims at ensuing bench trial.
- Part of trial team that obtained full defense verdict at jury trial in the Central District of California on behalf of producers, writer, director, and associated production company for intellectual property claims related to the development and production of a major theatrical motion picture.
- Successfully defended animation studio against claims of copyright infringement related to a major theatrical motion picture.
- Successfully defended owner and operators of major social media application against claims of trademark infringement.
- Successfully represented high-profile non-profit motion picture industry organization in enforcing intellectual property and related restrictions on the sale of industry award statuettes by award recipients.
- Part of industry negotiating team that successfully represented the major motion picture and television studios, network production entities, and independent production companies in numerous labor negotiations and related matters.
- Represented institutional investors in antitrust litigation related to improper collusion in markets for benchmark swap rates and precious metals.
- Represented monoline bond insurer in multi-jurisdiction financial crisis litigation over misrepresentations related to residential mortgage backed securities in cases that resolved with nine and ten-figure settlements.

- Represented global toy manufacturer in multi-jurisdiction copyright, trademark, trade dress, and trade secrets action arising from conception and sale of dolls.