
Entertainment Properties

Uniquely situated to understand and advise on intellectual property issues that are faced by entertainment companies, Fross Zelnick has a long and storied history in handling matters involving both content and branding for the world's most-loved characters and franchises, including The Muppets, Superman, Batman and other characters in the DC Comics universe, Tarzan, Winnie the Pooh, Harry Potter, The Walking Dead, and more. Sitting at the crossroads of trademark and copyright law, these properties have been within the core of Fross Zelnick's client base for decades.

Fross Zelnick secures protection, enforces rights, and litigates court cases in matters involving entertainment properties. In fact, the firm has helped develop the law in this field in matters relating to trademark protection, copyright protection and termination. Our depth of knowledge in the areas of trademark and copyright law enables us to advise our clients in this arena from a holistic view, helping them protect their rights strategically and thoughtfully, but also to provide nuts-and-bolts advice to ensure seamless and continuous protection and exploitation of properties, characters, and story elements.

Strengths that Matter to our Clients:

- Understanding of where copyright and trademark law intersect and overlap
- Experience in securing registrations for entertainment property trademarks, including names, images, and distinctive sounds
- Deep knowledge of goods and services common to licensing and merchandising

Decisions

Sawicky v. AMC Networks Inc.

DC Comics v. Towle

UMG Recordings, Inc. v. Sigg Music, Inc.

Superman Copyright Termination Litigation

Milne v. Stephen Slesinger, Inc.

Troll Co. A/S v. Uneeda Doll Co.

DC Comics v. Gotham City Networking, Inc.

Creative Arts by Calloway, LLC v. Brooks

Hits From the Bong, Inc. v. Javen Mitchell

American First Run Studios v. Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc.

Cavalier v. The Jim Henson Co., Inc.

DC Comics v. Powers

DC Comics v. Beling

Tri-Star Pictures, Inc. v. Unger

DC Comics v. Kryptonite Corp.

DC Comics v. Mad Engine, Inc.

DC Comics v. Oliveri

DC Comics, Inc. v. Filimation Associates, Inc.

Murray v. British Broad. Corp.

EFS Marketing, Inc. v. Russ Berrie & Co.

Frank Sinatra Enters., LLC v. Loizon

Missing Cougar Co. v. Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc.

UMG Recordings, Inc. v. O'Rourke

Hogarth v. Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc.

Jackson v. Booker

Twin Peaks Prods., Inc. v. Publications Int'l, Ltd.

Warner Bros., Inc. v. Gay Toys, Inc.

Burroughs v. MGM

Buffett v. Cheeseburger in Paradise, Inc.

Playboy Enterprises v. Dumas

Hormel Foods Corp. v. Jim Henson Productions, Inc.

Representative Experience

- Clients include Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc., DC Comics, AMC Networks, The Jim Henson Company, Edgar Rice Burroughs (Tarzan creator), and others