

Film and Television



‘ “An exceptional team,” that provides unbeatable experience with a dedicated and personal service.’

Chambers & Partners, 2006

Harbottle & Lewis LLP provides specialist advice to the media, entertainment and communications industries. It remains unique in having expertise right across these sectors and is consistently recognised as a leading firm by independent sources. Whilst its key practice areas continue to expand, the original values of the firm - to provide efficient legal advice, encourage originality and exceed expectations - remain constant.

Our Film and Television Group

The Harbottle & Lewis Film and Television Group advises clients involved in all aspects of the film and television industry. They include independent film and television production companies both in the UK and worldwide, sales agents, distributors, film studios, facilities houses, banks, EIS and other tax-related financing schemes, regional subsidy funds, completion guarantors, talent agents, broadcasters, programme sponsors, sports rights organisers and event organisers.

Film Production

Our lawyers have expertise in advising on the full spectrum of film production agreements throughout all stages in the life-cycle of a film, from development through to financing, production and distribution. Typical matters on which we are consulted range from book options; screenplay commissioning agreements; and artist and director agreements, through to the structuring of finance plans; negotiation of production loans and other investment agreements; sale and leaseback arrangements; completion guaranties; sales agency and distribution agreements; recoupment schedules; errors and omissions insurance applications; and music clearances.

We not only advise clients from a legal perspective on copyright and other intellectual property matters, we also provide practical advice on structuring production financing, finding finance and on other commercial aspects of film production.

Television Production

Our work in the field of television production covers all aspects from development; underlying rights acquisition and commissioning agreements; and financing and production agreements; to distribution and licensing arrangements. We act for many of the leading independent production companies across all genres including drama, entertainment, factual and children's programming. We are increasingly involved in co-production, pre-sale and equity funding arrangements, as well as advising on a variety of sponsorship, programme compliance and copyright clearance issues. Our lawyers pride themselves on their in-depth knowledge of the television industry, which they use to help clients produce and exploit their programmes in the most efficient manner.



'The inimitable Bob Storer heads Harbottle & Lewis LLP's blue chip film and television practice...He is one of London's most experienced and knowledgeable lawyers and has long been recognised as one of the leading media lawyers in London.'

Legal 500, 2005

Film Financing

We have great experience in all aspects of film financing, from advising on EIS schemes and other tax-related financing schemes, through to advising banks on production loan agreements, letters of credit and all related security issues. We also act for completion guarantors and a number of funds providing regional subsidies in the UK. We provide general financing advice on all types of lending and borrowing and the creation and enforcement of security and act for both finance providers and borrowers. Our Finance Practice works closely with the Film and Television Group to provide the necessary specialist skills to deliver a complete “one stop” service to the firm’s film industry clients.

Sponsorship and Regulatory Matters

We act for a range of rights owners and broadcasters, advising regularly on issues relating to rights exploitation, sponsorship and broadcast regulatory issues. Our work includes advising on new broadcast licences; event management and sponsorship issues for event rights owners; the use and extension of brands through television broadcast for clients involved in other media; and advising individuals and companies on a variety of issues relating to exposure through the broadcast medium.

At a time when traditional media channels are changing we are uniquely placed to work with colleagues specialising in different areas of media and entertainment in providing business experience and legal advice for clients dealing with and exploiting the challenges ahead.



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‘This impressive commercial team earns enthusiastic endorsements... it is excellent on all aspects of development, production and contract matters.’

Chambers & Partners, 2005

‘The “omnipresent” Abigail Payne is a real presence in the market. One appreciative client said: “I sometimes think she must have cloned herself to stay on top of so many matters.”’

Chambers & Partners, 2006

Clients

Our clients include:

Film Production

Fragile Films, Ealing Studios, Merchant Ivory, Ecosse Films, Heyman Hoskins, Tiger Aspect Film, Media 8, Kismet Film Company, Pembroke Pictures, Scorpio Films, Zentropa Film, Dino De Laurentiis, Yellow Sky Productions, Infinity Media, Film & Music Entertainment Limited (F&ME).

Television

Ecosse TV Productions, Tiger Aspect, Shine, Monkey Kingdom, Indie Kids, Tightrope Pictures, 19 Production, Emap, Hartwood Films, Power Television, UMTV, Darral Macqueen, Greenlit Rights, Noel Gay Media, Grant Naylor Productions, Objective Productions.

Film Financing

Bank of Ireland, Quinta Communications, Grosvenor Park, Invicta Capital Limited, Ingenious Media, Film Finances, EM Media, Screen West Midlands, Screen Yorkshire.

Event Sponsorship and Management

The Prince's Trust, International Sportsworld Communicators, Professional Sports Partnerships.

Skills

Specialist Knowledge

As a media and entertainment law firm, we recognise that understanding a client's industry and business is a pre-requisite to giving practical and effective advice. We are consistently recognised as leaders in the film and television industries.

Practical and Commercial

We excel at offering sound advice that takes account of commercial realities. We are noted for our business acumen and for finding creative solutions to problems.

Speedy Response

We understand that film and television production and financing are subject to tight deadlines and we pride ourselves on providing prompt responses without compromising legal integrity.

Full Service

We are flexible in our approach and have the capacity to work on virtually any transaction or matter with which our clients (ranging from individuals and start-up companies to large international corporations) are involved. In addition to our specialist film and television lawyers, the firm also has lawyers specialising in employment, tax, property, immigration, corporate, finance and litigation to ensure that we service all of our film and television clients' day to day legal needs.

For further information please contact Robert Storer and Medwyn Jones on 020 7667 5000 or email robert.storer@harbottle.com or medwyn.jones@harbottle.com

Contact Information

Harbottle & Lewis LLP

Hanover House, 14 Hanover Square, London W1S 1HP

Tel: +44 (0)20 7667 5000 Fax: +44 (0)20 7667 5100 Dx: 44617 Mayfair Web: www.harbottle.com

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