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INSIDE ENTERTAINMENT & MEDIA LAW

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Greg Derin

No affiliation

Los Angeles

Rate: \$4,000/day

School: Boalt Hall School of Law, 1979

Greg Derin has been handling entertainment disputes for more than 27 years as a litigator and mediator, often settling discreet cases for studios and talent agencies. Running his own unaffiliated mediation practice is somewhat rare for a top neutral, but he doesn't have trouble finding clients. Derin says he enjoys the challenge in coming up with creative solutions to what may seem like very complex problems. "There is so much unsettled law, there is a great deal of opportunity for all of us to be creative," he says of entertainment matters. "There are not as many black and white issues as in certain areas of law." Derin has mediated a broad range of cases, from the dissolution of entertainment partnerships to film rights involving copyright and trademark disputes to employment cases. "There is a lot of fertile ground for the parties to reach solutions," he says. "It's not so much about power and rights. It's about finding common ground."

Buzz: "He has extraordinary patience and determination, but at the same time he's very practical and has a good business sense. He handled a mediation for me that involved very sophisticated rights ownership issues, and the settlement probably could have cratered numerous times, but he kept bringing the parties back to the table even though the negotiation took well over six months to conclude. He's very dedicated to the case and has a lot of perseverance."

— David Aronoff, Fox Spillane Shaeffer,
Los Angeles