LEE&THOMPSON

UK Lawyers to the Creative Industries

Film & Television

About Us

Lee & Thompson is one of the leading law firms for the media, entertainment and creative industries worldwide. Its unrivalled Film & Television Group is the largest team of specialist lawyers outside of the US, offering a one-stop shop for clients involved in the creation and exploitation of content.

Our team excels in delivering smart, efficient, and industry-specific advice to our clients. Our approach is swift, technically precise and consistently commercial.

We represent a wide variety of international, award-winning producers and many of the industry's most prolific financiers, distributors, sales agents, institutions and studios. It's a global network that allows us to harvest opportunities and structure deals that others might miss.

Welcome to the UK

The way in which content is produced, financed and distributed across the world is fast changing; stories are travelling further and faster than they ever have before and the scope for the exploitation of this content is hugely exciting. This has created a wealth of exciting opportunities for international collaborations in the creative sectors.

The UK remains a beacon for US creators and investors, drawn by our shared language, a wealth of British talent, a robust tax credit framework, and the steadfastness of the US currency.

We're perfectly placed to advise you on all aspects of productions coming to the UK.



A Gateway to Europe & Beyond

We have decades of experience and knowledge of the global content industry. This makes us the first-choice for international content creators, financiers and distributors.

As a result of the increasing demand for English-language content, the UK is a gateway to the rest of world. From Europe to Africa, Asia and the Middle East, Lee & Thompson regularly sources, navigates and coordinates international opportunities for our clients.

"Very experienced and know both the UK and international markets well, which is particularly useful in relation to complex talent negotiations."

Chambers & Partners

Production

We manage all documentation for US studios and producer/ financiers coming to the UK and internationally as well as multi-territory collaborations. We understand the multi-layered requirements of production and have extensive knowledge of guild and clearance arrangements, and how they apply in an international context.

We are trusted advisers and hands-on practitioners throughout the lifecycle of a project. Even when a project is in embryonic stage, Lee & Thompson works with writers, directors, talent, agents and producers to help coordinate projects and get them into production.



Media Finance

Film and TV finance is a cornerstone of our practice, representing all of the major UK-based and international banks active in the media sectors. We advise other blue-chip lending institutions in relation to structured finance transactions for film and TV, as well as a range of private equity firms and post house financiers active in the media finance sector.

We support both financiers and those seeking finance, structuring deals that safeguard our clients' interests.

We have extensive experience of complex international financing structures and we regularly source and navigate many pan-European and international co-production film and TV deals.

Recent

Highlights

Here are just a few of the acclaimed films and TV productions worked on recently by the Lee & Thompson team.

The Zone of Interest (A24)
Client: JW Films (Reno Antoniades
as Executive Producer)



Beckham (Netflix) Client: Studio 99 / David Beckham

The Iron Claw (A24)

Starring Zac Efron & Jeremy Allen White Client: House Productions



The Family Plan (Apple Studios)
Starring Mark Wahlberg
Client: Skydance

The Gorge (Apple Studios)

Starring Miles Teller & Anna Taylor-Joy Client: Skydance



Kandahar (Capstone Pictures) Starring Gerard Butler Client: Thunder Road



Constellation (Apple Studios) Starring Noomi Rapace Client: Turbine Studios

The Brutalist (Focus Features)
Starring Adrien Brody, Felicity Jones
Client: Brookstreet Pictures

Close to You (Greenwich Entertainment)

Starring Elliot Page Clients: Me & You Productions, Rolling Dice

Love Lies Bleeding (A24)

Starring Kristen Stewart
Clients: Escape Plan
Productions & Lobo Films

Hamlet (WME/Focus Features)

Starring Riz Ahmed
Client: JW Films & BBC Film



How to Have Sex (Mubi)
Directed by Molly Manning Walker
Clients: MK2 Films & Head Gear

Living (Lionsgate)

Starring Bill Nighy
Client: Rocket Science



Lee (Roadside Attractions)

Produced by & starring Kate Winslet Clients: Aperture Media & Cofiloisirs SA & Rocket Science Industries

Above The Below (Lionsgate)

Starring Idris Elba
Client: Future Artist Entertainment

Aftersun (Mubi)

Starring Paul Mescal
Client: Unified Theory Productions

Please Don't Feed the Children

Directed by Destry Allyn Spielberg Client: Media Finance Capital

The Way (BBC)

Starring & directed by Michael Sheen Clients: Little Door & Red Seam

Bird (A24)

Starring Barry Keoghan

Client: House Productions



The End We Start From (Signature Entertainment) Starring Jodie Comer Clients: Sunnymarch & Hera Pictures

Boom! Boom: The World vs Boris Becker (Apple Studios)

Client: Lorton Entertainment

Additional Services

Clearance, Privacy & Defamation

Our specialist Content Clearance and Media Disputes Team has over 30 years' experience providing legal clearance and compliance advice on some of the most successful film and TV productions in recent years and across all genres, including documentaries, factual drama, fictional drama, 'blue light' programmes, factual entertainment shows, reality television, comedy and children's animations.

Employment & Immigration

Drawing and retaining talent from around the world is particularly attractive to the media, technology and creative industries and our dedicated Employment and Immigration team is highly experienced at handling the – often complicated – legal and commercial challenges that this brings.

Digital, Tech & Al

The convergence of media with technology and artificial intelligence, whether it's the commissioning and distribution of films via digital platforms or use of Al and VR in videogames and TV, is a reality. We offer unparalleled expertise and experience in the digital and technology space.

Corporate

We are preeminent in advising on corporate deals in the media, technology and creative industries, offering specialist strategic and business affairs advice on all types of corporate deals from mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and investor/shareholder arrangements to project financing, corporate restructuring, capital reductions and share buy-backs, EMI option schemes and finance/security agreements.

IP Protection & Exploitation

Intellectual property is core to what we do. We help creative companies on all aspects of intellectual property protection, exploitation and strategic advice, including brand and trade mark registration and enforcement, design right matters, copyright issues, IP infringement and licensing, the patentability of technology and formulating IP strategies.

Data Protection

Our data protection and privacy team advises on all data protection and international cybersecurity related issues. Alongside defamation and privacy, data protection law is also an increasing valuable tool in protecting our clients' personal reputations.

Meet the Team

Key Advisers



Reno Antoniades Partner, Film & TV renoantoniades@leeandthompson.com

"The best film & TV lawyer in the business" Legal 500



Christos Michaels Head of Film

christosmichaels@leeandthompson.com

"Christos has an incredible track record and is widely known as an indefatigable supporter of creative people working in the industry."

Chambers & Partners





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