

There is probably no other profession than the music business where California Music Lawyers spend so much of their time advising their clients how to avoid being taken advantage of. So many people will try to take advantage of you when you are starting out as an artist or musician if you don't have a lawyer. When you are just starting out, and if you have talent, the entertainment industry sees you as a buffet table with nothing to discourage them from returning over and over to take as much as they can.

If you're a musician and have a music law issue, dispute or have a music or other entertainment contract that needs review, visit our law firm website at <http://www.SebastianGibsonLaw.com> for more information and call us at any of the numbers easily found on our website.

Unfortunately, without the music industry, you can't be seen or heard. You need them as much as they need you. If they could sing or dance without you they would. But they can't. The trick is to see that they don't take everything from you without leaving you the ability to receive the compensation you should receive for your talent and abilities.

Music contracts are notoriously long, complicated and almost undecipherable to all but a music lawyer. Thirty page contracts are nothing unusual in this business. And there are so many contracts you will be faced with as a musician. Sign the wrong contract and you can be married to a bad agent, promoter, manager, distribution deal, publishing deal or record company and have your career over before it ever began.

Besides the issues you will face with copyrighting your music and trademarking your band name and logo, if you have one, there are management contracts, recording agreements, publishing contracts, agent contracts, distribution deals, licensing contracts, promotion deals, festival and concert contracts, producer agreements and that doesn't even get into the complex issues contained in many of these agreements.

A music lawyer must have knowledge of synchronization rights, digital rights, peer to peer file swapping, sampling, mechanical licenses, copyright infringement, publishing, advertising law, immigration, employment law, negotiation, ring tones, and have a good understanding of how music is made from mixing to mastering, from the roles of the producer to the needs of the musicians.

And yet, for the music lawyer, there is little that is as rewarding as being part of the recording process or helping a group or an artist make it to the big time.

My advice to musicians just starting out and being presented with any type of contract is that having their contract reviewed by a music lawyer is essential. You are likely being presented with the most one-sided type of contract in any business or profession. They are written by the attorneys for the company or manager who is handing it to you with absolutely no attempt to be even handed.

Worst of all, at this stage in your career, you have little leverage. No matter how good you think your music is, the music world is littered with great musicians who signed horrible contracts that stifled if not ended their careers. If you have to do an extra gig and save the money

to have a contract reviewed, that's what you need to do. Get yourselves a good music lawyer. Not a divorce lawyer. Not a trial lawyer. Retain an entertainment lawyer who knows the music business and one, preferably, who is interested in music and who is willing to listen to your music.

We invite you to visit our law firm website at <http://www.SebastianGibsonLaw.com> and call us if you have a music or entertainment law issue, dispute or contract that needs review.