

Practice Areas

- Litigation
- Entertainment, Media and Communications
- Intellectual Property
- Digital Media

Education

- J.D., Columbia University School of Law, 1998
- B.A., Brown University, 1992

Bar Admissions

- New York (1999)
- U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York (1999)

Benjamin Semel

Of Counsel
bsemel@pryorcashman.com

7 Times Square
New York, NY
10036-6569

Direct Tel: 212-326-0131
Direct Fax: 212-798-6351



Benjamin Semel has extensive experience in all phases of commercial litigation. He has handled cases at the state and federal level in jury trials and appeals as well as arbitrations and mediations. His experience in intellectual property cases covers trademark and trade secret infringement, copyrights for film, music, software, literature and architectural works, rights of publicity and privacy, as well as emerging issues in internet, technology and information law.

Ben has also litigated complex commercial cases involving areas such as contracts, fraud, real estate, securities, corporate governance and shareholder claims. His experience covers complicated questions of jurisdiction, choice of law, enforcement of foreign judgments and the interplay of international law.

In an exemplar case, along with partner Jamie Brickell, Ben represented the plaintiffs in a breach of contract and fraud dispute over the sale of a medical program for the treatment of prostate cancer. The five-week federal court trial resulted in a \$58 million unanimous jury verdict for the clients, one of the largest awards in the nation in 2003.

After graduating from Brown University as a triple major, Ben wrote for the daily newspaper and worked in jazz radio in New Orleans before moving to law. He graduated in 1998 from Columbia University School of Law where he was a Kent Scholar, the highest academic honor awarded, and received the Class of 1912 Prize, given to the single top student in the area of contracts.

Ben has also combined his legal career with extensive international travel. Of his twelve years as a lawyer, he has spent five years on sabbatical from his native New York City, journeying across over 100 nations, engaging in teaching, managing charity foundations, working disaster relief, conservation and animal welfare projects, and eating some extremely strange things.

Publications

- Author, *Webcasting and Copyright Law: How the Legal Framework May Be Changing e-Commerce Law & Strategy*, e-Commerce Law & Strategy (2002)
- Author, *Sorting Out the State of Music File-Swapping Online After Napster*, e-Commerce Law & Strategy (2001)
- Author, *Combating Online Infringement Post-Napster*, New Jersey Law

Journal (2001)

- Author, *The Challenge of the New Media for Entertainment Practitioners: An Encouraging Primer*, Nevada Lawyer (2000)

Speaking Engagements

- Panelist, *Impact of New Technologies on Entertainment Law*, New York City Bar CLE (2003)
- Panelist, *Hollywood Heat* primetime program, Expert, Court TV, legal expert on music piracy (2003)

Teaching Positions

- Columbia University School of Law, *Profession of Law* course (2004)

Distinctions

- Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA) Outstanding Volunteer Award (2003)

Professional Affiliations

- New York State Bar Association, Member

News

- Pryor Cashman Announces New Partner and Elevates Four to Of Counsel