

Practice Areas

- Entertainment, Media and Communications
- Banking and Finance
- Intellectual Property
- Corporate

Education

- LL.B., University of Sydney, 1981
- B.A., University of Sydney, Australia, 1979 (First Class Honors)

Bar Admissions

- California (2003)
- New South Wales, Australia (1981)

Karen M. Robson

Partner

krobson@pryorcashman.com

1801 Century Park East | Direct Tel: 310-556-9608
Los Angeles, CA 90067 | Direct Fax: 310-556-9670



Partner Karen Robson has worked primarily in the Film Finance and Production practice of the Entertainment Group since 1986 and heads the Los Angeles office of Pryor Cashman LLP. Karen represents a variety of financiers, banks, equity investors, high-profile independent producers and production companies for which she structures film finance transactions and also provides production legal representation. She also represents individual writers, directors and producers in the motion picture and television areas.

For over twenty years, Karen has handled financing on multiple picture deals and single pictures, television mini-series and major documentaries. In recent years, Karen has represented both producers and lenders with respect to film financings which include senior and mezzanine debt and/or equity, international co-productions and U.S. tax incentivized financings. Recent deals include:

- Negotiated a 30 picture slate deal on behalf of a studio
- Structured finance transactions including complex capital structures involving equity, sub-debt and senior debt including hedge-fund investors
- Advised startup U.S. distribution companies and negotiating studio ancillary deals (Pay TV, TV, Video, etc.) and stand-alone Pay TV deals
- Structured exit strategies for investors in slate film financings
- Advised Lionsgate Films on possible acquisition of the Terminator Sequel rights from an entity in bankruptcy
- Represented lenders in connection with bridge loans and collateralization of multi-picture transactions
- Represented a Latin American film fund
- Represented producer/equity investors in a major international co-production produced in Latin America and the U.K. based on a literary masterwork by a Nobel prize winning author
- Represented lenders in connection with library acquisitions and collateralization of library assets
- Represented a major U.S. charitable foundation in its art and film projects
- Various joint ventures between distributors and investors for both live action and animated films

- Represented the financiers of James Cameron's large format films *Ghosts of the Abyss* and *Aliens of the Deep*, the first HD large-format 3D films (released by Disney)

Karen also specializes in representing properties in the film, video, television and merchandising areas including properties in the family entertainment arena, including *The Berenstain Bears*, *I Spy*, a children's television series featuring music artist Dan Zanes, and theatrical feature films based on a series of major children's television and merchandising properties.

Prior to her career as an attorney, Karen had a brief career as a film actress in Australia, including a major role in Peter Weir's cult favorite, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*.

Previous Positions

- Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison, Associate (1984-85)
- Mallesons Stephen Jacques (Sydney, Australia), Associate (1981-84)

Teaching Positions

- Tutor, Media Business School, Spain (1999) and Brazil (2000)

Speaking Engagements

- Panelist, "Produced By" Conference held by the Producers Guild of America, *Foreign Affairs: The Essentials of International Co-Production*, Los Angeles (June 2010)
- Panelist, 2010 Los Angeles International Film & TV Finance Summit
- Panelist, 2009 and 2008 New York International Film & TV Finance Summit, *International Film or TV Production Incentives - Update on What's Available and How to Access Production Tax Credits outside the U.S.*, New York
- Panelist, IFTA Conference, *New Australian and NZ Tax incentives in the Film Industry*, Los Angeles (2008)
- Next Gen Los Angeles, featured speaker with producer Lynda Obst on *Women in the Film Industry*, Los Angeles (2007)
- Panelist, International Film and Television Financing Summit, Los Angeles (2004)
- Panelist, International Film & TV Finance Summit, *Sources of Film Capital: What Are The Alternatives To The Disappearing Capital Markets?*, New York (2003)
- Lecturer, Practising Law Institute (PLI): *Counseling Clients in the Entertainment Industry*, New York (2001, 2002, 2003)
- Panelist, Lake Placid Film Forum, *Agents and Lawyers*, New York (2002)
- Panelist, IFFM/IF, *Representation in the Film Business*, New York (1996)
- Panelist, Australian Film Commission, *Low Budget Filmmaking*, Sydney, Australia (1996)

Professional Affiliations

- Beverly Hills Bar Association

Other Activities

- British Academy of Film and Television (BAFTA), Member
- Australians In Film, Member

News

- Pryor Cashman Represents Lions Gate Films, Inc. In Efforts To Purchase Terminator Film Series
- Legal 500 US 2009 Again Names Pryor Cashman as One of Top U.S. Media, Technology and Telecoms Firms
- Pryor Cashman Partner Robson Is Guest Speaker At Atlas 2008 International Film & TV Finance Summit
- Pryor Cashman Represents Hedge Fund In Major Motion Picture Financing Deal

Events

- Partner Karen Robson Speaks At 2010 International Film & TV Finance Summit