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## Legal Eagle

**Ivy Kagan Bierman  
on being named  
the Beverly Hills  
Bar Association's  
Entertainment  
Lawyer of the Year**



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# coverstory

# LEGAL EAGLE

## Ivy Kagan Bierman on being named the Beverly Hills Bar Association's Entertainment Lawyer of the Year

By Mina Riazi

### Why do you think you were chosen to be honored?

When Marc Staenberg, the [Chief Executive Officer] of the Beverly Hills Bar Association, called to inform me that the [BHBA] had decided to honor me as the Entertainment Lawyer of the Year, he said, "You're very well-respected and widely well-liked in the entertainment industry." Then we proceeded to have a conversation where he said to me that in addition to being so well-respected for the legal work that I do, the [BHBA] felt that I also did a lot of important community outreach, which was very admirable. So I think they selected me for my reputation in the industry—for being good at the kind of work I do and for being someone that has good relationships within the industry—but also, again, because I give a substantial amount of my time to the community.

### How did you get involved with the BHBA?

The work that I do in the community has not been through the [BHBA]; I serve on three Boards: the Board of Women in Film (WIF), the Board of the Hollywood Radio and Television Society (HRTS) and also on the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Board. What's really good about how the BHBA selects the recipient for this award is that it's not based on the ties you have with the BHBA,

it's really based on whether you're perceived to be an exceptional lawyer within the industry, and again, what kind of relationships you have within the industry and what you give back to the community.

I've been involved with WIF for many, many years and served on the Board for many years as well. The primary focus of

my involvement has been with respect to mentoring. I serve on the mentoring committee and I conduct mentoring circles, which are groups of about 8-10 women who do many things within the entertainment industry and are seeking some career guidance. Mentoring women is a very big passion for me. I also mentor female associates as well as mentor other women who are not even in the entertainment business.

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**— Ivy Kagan Bierman, Entertainment partner at Loeb & Loeb**

In terms of the HRTS, I've been on the Board for several years. HRTS does an amazing number of programs that benefit the industry, both in terms of educational programs and networking. As a Board member, I'm part of the governance of that organization.

The ADL is also a very big passion for me. As you may be aware, the ADL's mission is to not only fight anti-Semitism, but to also fight bigotry and hatred of all kinds. I devote a significant amount of time to the work of the ADL as well. I recently accepted the ADL's request that I become Chair of the Board when the current Chair's term is up, in approximately a year.

### What do you enjoy most about practicing law?

I really enjoy resolving disputes in as mutually beneficial a way as possible. Many of the matters I work on involve disputes that threaten feature film and television production and I have a very short amount of time to resolve those disputes. So the work is very challenging and very meaningful, and I have a good track record of being able to resolve these very intense disputes rather quickly and effectively. That's really what I thrive on—I thrive on



(Left to right): Sam Bierman, Ivy Kagan Bierman, Sean Kagan and Arata Kagan.

the relationships that I have with my clients but also the relationships I have with the other parties that I need to work with to resolve disputes with.

### Tell us about your family.

I have two sons. My older son Sean is the Vice Consul for the British Consulate in Boston. It's a really terrific position for someone who's so young—he's turning 26. Sean graduated from Oakwood and went on to graduate from USC. Beverly Hills has a very special meaning for my family: Sean and his husband Arata were married at the Beverly Hills court house in May 2014 and we had the wedding reception at L'Ermitage. My younger son Sam, [who is 18], is a music major at the Frost School of Music at Miami University. He's a media writing

and production major with a music, business and songwriting double minor. His goal is to compose music for film, television and video games. Sam attended [the Buckley School]. My brother Shelly Berg is actually the Dean of the Frost School of Music and a Grammy-nominated recording and performing artist and he is going to be performing with Patti Austin, who's a Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist, at the event on September 16.

### What is your proudest career accomplishment so far?

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work with Joan Rivers in the last couple years of her life. She was the

host of *Fashion Police* at the time. The Writers Guild of America was trying to organize *Fashion Police* and Joan became the focal point of their organizing efforts. Through my relationship with the WGA, I was able to resolve a dispute that was

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**— Ivy Kagan Bierman**

very personal for Joan in a very favorable manner. I've selected this as my proudest career accomplishment because there were other lawyers involved who were representing other parties who really did not believe that I was going to be able to accomplish what I accomplished. [They] were very concerned that I was not going to be able to accomplish what I accomplished and I believed I could resolve the dispute in a favorable manner, and Joan believed in me. So it really is my proudest moment to date in my career. I'm actually dedicating the award on September 16 to Joan Rivers and to my mother, Lorraine Berg, who passed away three years ago. My mom was my best friend as well as my personal and professional advisor and biggest cheerleader.

*The BHBA's Entertainment Lawyer of the Year Dinner is being held on September 16 at 5:30 pm at the Beverly Wilshire. Tickets are \$300 per person (\$325 after September 9). Event proceeds support Beverly Hills Bar Association's Education and Community Outreach programs. For tickets, tables, sponsorship, tribute book ads and other information, call (310) 601-2422 or visit [www.bhba.org](http://www.bhba.org). The Beverly Wilshire is located at 9500 Wilshire Boulevard.*