

# Daily Journal

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## TOP 100 LAWYERS IN CALIFORNIA 2018

### MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT

#### JOSEPH A. CALABRESE

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP | LOS ANGELES

**SPECIALTY:** NEGOTIATIONS, FINANCINGS, MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

One of the first things Calabrese experienced when he moved to Los Angeles in 1984 was the summer Olympic Games.

More than 30 years later, he advised the International Olympic Committee as it whittled down its candidates and ultimately named the City of Angels to be host once again in 2028.

“Los Angeles is perfect for hosting the Olympics because we’re ready and the venues and infrastructure are already here,” Calabrese said.

He regularly taps past experiences when advising his clients. When his hand isn’t in sports, it’s in the movie industry with rising studios such as A24.

“I’ve done that virtually my entire career ... way back in the day when Castle Rock was getting started and PolyGram was new in town,” Calabrese said.

“We provide a lot of guidance to help try to avoid some of the pitfalls and growing pains of certain types of deals,” he added.

Another newer studio he works with is SkyDance Media, which he had a hand in securing financing for the latest film in the “Terminator” franchise from Chinese investment firm Tencent Holdings.

“Big budget action movies like that are very popular in China,” Calabrese said. “We helped with the co-financing arrangements ... whenever you have a third distributor/financier it makes things more challenging.”

For many years, he’s also worked with the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which is responsible for one of Tinseltown’s biggest nights of the year: the Golden Globe Awards.

Calabrese advised the HFPA as it recently finalized an agreement with NBC to extend broadcast right to the Golden Globes through 2026.

“For the first time, we’re taking a very active role in deciding our future in terms of which network we’ll be on,” he said, “what sort of rights we’ll be granting and retaining and really taking a



fresh look at a show that just continues to do extremely well.”

— Arin Mikailian