

Rising Star: Latham's Andrew Gass

Law360, New York (July 21, 2017, 5:05 PM EDT) -- A carefully carved niche by Latham & Watkins LLP's Andrew Gass at the intersection of intellectual property and competition matters in the music industry, and his successes in that sector — such as wins for Live Nation and Ticketmaster in Songkick's ongoing antitrust suit against them — have earned Gass a spot as one of five competition law attorneys under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

THE BIGGEST CASE OF HIS CAREER:

While numerous cases came to mind for Gass, such as Craigslist's case against content scraper 3taps Inc. and Songkick's antitrust saga against Live Nation and Ticketmaster, Gass pinpointed the royalty row against [Pandora Media Inc.](#) related to songs recorded before 1972 currently pending before the California Supreme Court not only as his biggest case, but one that fits his practice to a T.

"It involves really complicated issues of public policy, about what rights attached to seminal songs that we all hear on the radio," he said. "And in a kind of related but important way it also implicates a lot of the antitrust concerns that have motivated a lot of my teaching and practice along the way."

TEACHING LAW:

Besides his love for his students and for keeping up on the newest rulings and regulations that affect his practice, Gass said that teaching at University of California, Berkeley School of Law also keeps him on his toes.

"There's no better test of your knowledge and opinions about a subject matter than standing up in front of students for two hours and having them pepper you with questions about it," he said.

RISING
 ★★★★★★
STAR



Andrew Gass
Latham & Watkins

Age: 38

Home base: San Francisco

Position: Partner

Law school: University of California, Berkeley School of Law

First job after law school: Associate at Howard Rice Nemerovski Canady Falk & Rabkin PC

PROUDEST MOMENT AS A LAWYER:

Returning to pre-1972 song royalty disputes, Gass said that his proudest moment was after he won a case on behalf of his client [iHeartMedia Inc.](#) using a radical legal argument that Illinois common copyright protections did not exist for the recordings, which earned him a sanctions threat from opposing counsel.

"When we started making that argument in those pre-72 sound recording cases, opposing counsel actually threatened sanctions for being so radical," Gass said. "So to win one of these cases with the court squarely embracing that theory was not just a great win for the clients but also incredibly gratifying personally."

ADVICE TO YOUNG ATTORNEYS:

A genuine interest in the law you practice is not only a must, Gass told Law360, but can make the difference between a good attorney and a great attorney.

"Whatever it is that you choose, you will be more successful if you have a passion to learn about a subject matter for the sake of a subject matter," he said.

LESSONS FROM HIS DEFEATS:

While losses or setbacks aren't anyone's favorite part of practicing law — or life — Gass said that not letting the losses bog down your practice or personal life is key to overcoming them.

"Because those things happen, and because it's hard, it's important to value above all else the relationships you have with your clients, your firm and your family and to keep the wins and losses in a much bigger perspective," he said.

— *As told to Adam Rhodes*

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2017 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,200 submissions. This interview has been edited and condensed.

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