

EXCLUSIVE LIST

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER, ESQ.

INSIDE ENTERTAINMENT & MEDIA LAW

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MARCH 27-APRIL 2, 2007

Power Mediators

Settle that case!

Our inaugural list of the top 32 mediation specialists for entertainment disputes

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Deborah Rothman

Judicate West

Los Angeles

Rate: \$450/hour

School: New York University School of Law

Not every mediator can say folk singer Joni Mitchell influenced their approach. When Mitchell's backyard slid into a neighbor's below, Deborah Rothman was called in to mediate the dispute. Viewing the damage at Mitchell's home, Rothman says the singer had a serenity about her. At one point she turned and said: "I don't understand this. I don't understand litigation. It seems to me in time of crisis neighbors should pull together and support each other and find a solution." That's how Rothman says she approaches cases, whether it's a licensing dispute over an infomercial product or a construction dispute involving the building of a recording studio. Her favorite matters include infringement disputes and the "emotional cases" that keep people from settling what otherwise are open-and-shut disputes. "I'm really good at peeling back the onion and getting to the nub ... and helping them fashion a solution. I can be pretty creative," she says.

Buzz: "I chose her specifically for a case that dealt with claims against a high-profile actor, and my sense from her was that she was not only in tune with the entertainment-related issues, but with the emotions. This is where her humanistic approach was invaluable; the fact that she was able to assess the situation and come up with some innovative techniques. She really gets to the nitty-gritty, so when she walks in, she's not just prepared for what the lawyers put in papers, she's prepared for the emotional content."
— Jole Gallo, Christensen Glaser Fink Jacobs Well & Shapiro, Los Angeles