

## McKool Smith Nabs IP Atty Who Sued Sirius In Turtles Row

By Kurt Orzeck

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McKool Smith said Monday that it has hired for its Los Angeles office an intellectual property litigator who brought the Turtles' long-running disputes against Sirius XM Radio Inc. to get owners of pre-1972 recordings licensed and compensated.

Robert E. Allen, whose practice focuses on copyright-related disputes, especially in entertainment and new media, has joined McKool Smith as a principal in its Los Angeles office, the firm said in its Monday statement.

The seasoned litigator previously headed his own law firm that specialized on entertainment-related IP disputes in state and federal court, according to McKool Smith. He also previously worked for more than a decade as the senior vice president and head of business and legal affairs for Universal Music Publishing Group when it was the biggest music publisher in the world.

Mike McKool, founder and chairman of McKool Smith, sang Allen's praises on Monday.

"Robert brings a new area of experience and clientele to the firm. His expertise in the music entertainment and new media sectors make his arrival particularly exciting," McKool said. "He will make a wonderful addition to our Los Angeles office."

Allen called McKool Smith a first-class trial firm.

"I was equally attracted to the firm's rapidly growing footprint in California and its record of success in high-profile intellectual property disputes," Allen said. "I look forward to growing my practice at the firm while working with the most successful trial lawyers in the country."

While at UMPG, Allen also served as the head of its new media business development committee, which was charged with setting the direction and execution of cutting-edge digital and Internet exploitation strategies, according to his biography.



Robert E. Allen

Before that, he was the second-in-command of the business and legal affairs department of the PolyGram Music Publishing Group, where he provided negotiation and legal support for its executive team.

Allen represents producer Quincy Jones in his \$10 million suit alleging that Sony Music Entertainment cheated him out of royalties on Michael Jackson's hit songs "Bad," "Thriller" and "Off the Wall." He also represented the writers of the first G.I Joe movie in a copyright infringement suit against Paramount Pictures for misappropriation of treatments and pitch materials in the sequel, which made \$350 million, according to McKool Smith.

Allen earned a B.A. with distinction in the political economy of industrialized societies from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1990, according to his biography. He acquired his J.D. at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law in 1993.

He is admitted to the state of California, the Ninth Circuit and the U.S. district courts for the Central District, Northern District, Southern District and Eastern District of California.

A California federal judge in May granted class certification to the Turtles, ruling the rock band's proposed class could also include other owners of pre-1972 songs that the satcaster played. Late last month, it was revealed that Sirius would pay \$210 million to Sony, UMG Recordings and Warner Music Group, resolving a large portion of the satcaster's two-year fight over the old tracks.

--Additional reporting by Bill Donahue. Editing by Christine Chun.

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