

KEN LEVITAN

Vector Management
Nashville, TN



As the founder and co-president of Vector Management, Ken Levitan is the rare music industry visionary who has both the creative courage to think boldly outside the lines with his career direction and the legal sensibilities to execute brilliantly in the atmosphere of the ever changing and challenging complexities of the established framework within the music business. This unique combination of giftings as artist manager, career consultant, entertainment lawyer, producer, publisher, and booking agent have given Levitan not only the well-earned reputation as a modern day renaissance man within the industry, but have earned him the respect as a major linchpin in the successful careers of many of the top names in the entertainment industry.

Ken Levitan's artist roster reads like a "who's-who" of a broad cross-genre. His fingerprints can be found in the successful DNA of the careers of artist such as Kings of Leon, The Fray, Hank Williams, Jr., B-52's, Emmylou Harris, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Trisha Yearwood, Peter Frampton, Meat Loaf, Lyle Lovett, Trace Adkins, Michael McDonald, Ke\$ha, and Patty Griffin, among others.

While attending Vanderbilt University, Brooklyn-born Levitan sharpened his industry chops early-on by running the school's concert committee, booking icons of the day such as Carole King, Stephen Stills, Hall & Oates, and Genesis. Following his graduation from the University of Dayton's School of Law in 1983, Levitan set his course for Nashville where he represented a number of music clients on the legal aspects of their careers, prior to making a move to the management arena.

"When I was practicing law full time, I shopped a lot of artist deals, and I simply got tired of investing that much time and expertise in my artists careers, and not having the creative positioning to really provide direction," he later noted. "Management was the perfect platform for my interests."

Along his career course, Ken Levitan has also had the decidedly career broadening experience on two separate occasions of being tapped for the role of label executive—first for Rising Tide Records (a subsidiary of Universal) and in 2002 as a co-founder with former RCA President, Jack Rovner, in establishing Vector Recordings. He is the recipient of a Grammy® Award as producer of the acclaimed soundtrack for the movie *The Apostle* and also for the Gospel album *Oh Happy Day*, and has been involved on the label side with Vector on Grammy nominated projects for Herbie Hancock, (*Possibilities*), Queen Latifah (*The Dana Owens Album*), as well as Damien Rice.

Today, speaking about his ongoing goals as a manager Levitan comments, "I have to balance the creativity and the business side to really make sure the artist maximizes his or her own goals. I am in management to build long-term careers, not one-hit wonders."

Active within the industry side, Ken Levitan also serves on the Boards of the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Academy of Country Music, the Country Music Association, the Tennessee Film, Entertainment & Music Commission, and the Nashville Music Council.