

MICHAEL C. DONALDSON

Donaldson & Callif, LLP
400 S. Beverly Dr., Ste. 400
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
michael@donaldsoncallif.com
(310) 277-8394
www.donaldsoncallif.com

Michael C. Donaldson is an entertainment attorney who has been fighting for independent filmmakers for over 30 years. In addition to working on films by such industry icons as Oliver Stone, Davis Guggenheim and Lawrence Bender, Michael serves as General Counsel to Film Independent (home of the Independent Spirit Awards and the Los Angeles Film Festival) and the Writers Guild Foundation.



He is the industry's go-to attorney for fair use (a doctrine in United States copyright law permitting limited use of copyrighted material without permission from the rights holders) and other clearance- and rights-related issues.

Some of Michael's notable accomplishments include:

- o Authoring *Clearance and Copyright*, which is currently used in over 50 film schools and has become the standard industry reference book.
- o Being honored as one of *Hollywood Reporter's* 2010 & 2011 Power Lawyers.
- o Successfully negotiating with Media Professional Insurance Company and Chubb Insurance Company to offer fair-use riders on the E&O insurance policies, allowing many films to be made under the fair-use doctrine.
- o Co-authoring with his partner Lisa Callif the *American Bar Association's Legal Guide to Filmmaking*.

- Being honored with the Amicus Award by The International Documentary Association – an honor bestowed on only two others in the 25-year history of the awards: Steven Spielberg and John Hendricks (founder of the Discovery Channel).
- Serving as one of the authors of the *Documentary Filmmakers Statement of Best Practices in Fair Use* and being the only attorney in private practice to serve on the drafting committee for the recently released *Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Online Video* (which includes a section on mash-ups).
- Serving on the Advisory Committee of the Stanford Fair Use Project.
- Being the sole American attorney to assist in the drafting of the Rome Resolution of 2007 to harmonize fair use across the European union.
- Assisting in the drafting and lobbying for Orphan Works legislation.
- Holding the position of President of the International Documentary Association.
- Organizing and leading the Documentary Credits Coalition in negotiations with the cable networks to prevent the wholesale migration of credits from the screen to the Internet.
- *Negotiating for Dummies* (now in its second edition and translated into eleven languages), *Fearless Negotiating* (published in hardback in 2007 by McGraw Hill) and *The E-Z Legal Guide to Trademarks & Copyrights*.

Michael graduated from UC Berkeley School of Law, Boalt Hall in 1967. He's worked on such projects as "This Film is Not Yet Rated" (where all 134 clips were utilized under fair use), "Wanderlust" (saving its filmmaker over \$400,000) and "Expelled" (which featured the song "Imagine," prompting an unsuccessful law suit by Yoko Ono). Michael has also worked with the Geffen Playhouse and the REDCAT, as well as representing Center Theatre Group (Ahmanson Theatre, Mark Taper Forum and Kirk Douglas Theatre) for over twenty years.

Aside from frequently lecturing at law and film schools in the United States and Europe, Michael is an avid skier, world-wide hiker, and an award-winning photographer.