

## Rising Star: Munger Tolles' Rose Leda Ehler

By Kevin Penton

*Law360 (July 28, 2020, 3:02 PM EDT)* -- Rose Leda Ehler of Munger Tolles & Olson LLP secured a \$62.4 million trial victory last year for Walt Disney, Warner Bros. and other Hollywood heavyweights against a streaming service that pirated the studios' films, earning her a spot among the media and entertainment law practitioners under age 40 honored as Law360 Rising Stars.

### **HER BIGGEST CASE:**

Ehler also represented New Line Productions Inc., Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp. and other entertainment companies in the piracy dispute with streaming service VidAngel, which was copying the studios' films before allowing users to remove nudity and violence from the content. A jury in June 2019 determined that VidAngel willfully infringed the copyrights of over 800 of the studios' films.

In cases like the VidAngel litigation, Ehler said she tries to explain the disputes to jurors not only through the legalities of copyright law but also by highlighting the impact the decisions have on all the people who make their living off entertainment.

"Thematically, you're trying to tell the story of why piracy and these sort of loopholes ... really hurts real people — the creative people who make the movies, the folks who work on set, everyone from the caterers to the security guards," Ehler said.

### **ANOTHER NOTABLE CASE:**

Ehler represented Disney, Paramount and other Hollywood heavyweights as they sued Omniverse One World Television over illegally selling copyrighted content to streaming services.

The studios accused Omniverse and its owner Jason M. DeMeo of recruiting smaller businesses to stream pirated content by falsely claiming that Omniverse had obtained licenses to stream the movies and shows. The attorney took the lead in the case, in which Omniverse agreed in November to stop operating its service and pay \$50 million.



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2020

**Rose Leda Ehler**

**Age:** 35  
**Home Base:** Los Angeles  
**Position:** Partner  
**Law School:** Stanford Law School  
**First job after law school:**  
Clerked for U.S. Circuit Judge  
Stephen Reinhardt of the Ninth  
Circuit

"This is a whack-a-mole problem for the industry of people trying to undercut legitimate sources," Ehler said. "It was rewarding to use everything that I'd learned to be the lead strategist and day-to-day lead lawyer on that matter and achieve such a great result for my client."

***WHY SHE'S A MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT ATTORNEY:***

Early in her legal career at Munger Tolles, Ehler said she was assigned to work on a rate-setting proceeding in which royalty collector SoundExchange sued Pandora Media Inc., iHeartMedia Inc. and other webcasters over the royalty rates paid for music played on streaming services.

Her three-year experience on the case left Ehler wanting to better understand the business side of the entertainment industry. While a creative idea is essential to whether a song, movie or show is well received, Ehler said she also came to understand that legal mechanisms such as copyrights help preserve the rights of creators and fuel whether the content is ultimately financially successful.

"Entertainment is a fascinating business," Ehler said. "The more I get to know about the business, the more I enjoy doing the legal side of that work."

***WHAT MOTIVATES HER:***

Ehler said she appreciates that her clients, whether individuals or companies, help provide the entertainment that can be so enriching for many people's lives, including her own.

"I really strive to make sure that my knowledge of their business is as deep as it can be so I can provide advice and litigation strategy that achieves the company's larger objectives," Ehler said.

— *As told to Kevin Penton*

*Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2020 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,300 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2020, to be eligible for this year's award. This interview has been edited and condensed.*