

# Michael Prywes

1 Haig Drive ♦ Dix Hills ♦ New York ♦ 11746 ♦ prywes@alumni.northwestern.edu

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## SUMMARY

Chair of Film & Television at Five Towns College, practicing attorney, bestselling author, adjunct professor, and creative business professional who understands the arts, law, technology, entertainment, intellectual property, entrepreneurship, education, social and mass media, marketing, and sales. Skilled negotiator, speaker, researcher, community leader, teacher, and writer with expertise in managing teams and building investor relationships.

## EXPERIENCE - EDUCATION

**Five Towns College**, Chair, Film & Television, Professor and Head of Producing (2018 - ) 2021 – present  
Oversee team of full-time faculty, adjuncts, and equipment and studio operations staff. Teach media law (First Amendment, dignity torts, IP), producing (including forms, documents, and redline agreements from pre-production to distribution), and writing to undergraduate media students. Producer of “American Poet,” written by Sarah Maraniss Vander Schaaff, directed by Oscar winner Milton Justice, backed by the Walt Whitman Birthplace.

**Half Hollow Hills CSD Board of Education**, Trustee 2017 – present  
Elected as one of seven Trustees in May 2017 (re-elected in 2020), ranked #1 district in Suffolk County by Niche, one of Long Island's largest and most diverse school districts, with a budget over \$250,000,000.

Attended state-mandated training. Other conferences attended: NYSSBA, Mental Health, Law, 1st Amendment and Privacy Issues.

**Jacob D. Fuchsberg Touro Law Center**, Adjunct Law Professor 2020 – present  
Teach entertainment law (contracts, copyright, trademark and merchandising, film, tv, music, interactive) to law students.

**LIU - Brooklyn**, Adjunct Professor 2018  
Taught soft intellectual property, negotiation, and dealmaking to M.F.A candidates in writing and producing.

**CUNY Queens College Continuing Education**, Instructor 1999 – 2009  
Taught an intensive writing course that dissects the science and art of storytelling and competing arguments, based, in part, on techniques by Duke Law's David Ball, author of “Backwards and Forwards” and “Damages.”

**New York University, New School, UCLA**, Guest Lecturer 2002  
“On the Making of RETURNING MICKEY STERN” – Richard Brown, Instructor  
“Finding Meaning in Image” – Robin Siegel, Instructor  
“Marketing a Film” – Ira Teller, Instructor

**Hillel/Center for Jewish Engagement**, JCSC Fellow 1996 - 1997  
Selected for the Doppelt-Spielberg and Ziegler Fellowships at Northwestern and USC. Created cutting-edge and innovative opportunities for university students. Launched award-winning projects (*Exodus! '97*, *Beit Café Coffeehouse*, *Filmmaker Forum*).

## EXPERIENCE – LEGAL

*Admitted, NYS Bar. CLE include: Education Law, Intellectual Property, Entertainment Law, Social Media, Examinations Before Trial, Drafting/Transactions for Limited Liability Companies, Music Deals, Digital Technology*

**Prywes, PC / Prywes Schwartz, PLLC**, Managing Attorney 2014 - present  
Founded transactional law firm devoted to entrepreneurs and artists. Joined the Copyright Society of the USA, Nassau County, Bar Association IP Section, New York State Bar Association, and Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts.

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*Client work includes:* took over from DMCA author Marc Jacobson as counsel to Long Island Film and Television Foundation in 2017, comprehensive creation of technology platform brand and private investment packages, guided independent filmmakers from ideation to distribution, launched indie 360° music/entertainment labels, advised seven-figure online portals and designed their policies. Also, negotiation and drafting includes: distribution agreements, joint venture agreements, advisory board member agreements, license agreements, management agreements, artist-side for non-competition reality television, buy-sell agreements for founders, life story rights for television, film, and digital.

Wrote the Amazon #1 bestselling legal/practical business handbook *The Gasp: How to Seize That A-Ha! Moment and Turn It Into a Winning Business*. Also wrote the legal guide to life story rights "Before You Make a Movie Based on Real Life," based on CLE delivered to attorneys in the Nassau County Bar Association Intellectual Property Section.

## **Bruce G. Clark & Associates**, Attorney

2009 - 2014

Recruited by law school professor to small prestigious firm; became trial second chair within six weeks.

Drafted motions, briefs, complaints; negotiated terms and stipulations in pre-trial conferences, prepared argument for appeals, participated in Frye hearings in camera during trial, argued motions for New York City and Long Island Supreme Court cases.

Deposed defendants and defended plaintiffs in examinations before trial and 50H Hearings.

Saved firm almost \$50,000 by restructuring approach to legal marketing. Established web and social networking presence for firm, applying cutting-edge Search Engine Optimization (SEO) and inbound marketing methods.

## **New Video Group Inc. / Docurama (now Cinedigm)**, Law Clerk

2007 - 2009

Integrated legal and business matters for iTunes aggregator and consumer products distributor of *A&E*, *History Channel*, *Major League Baseball*, *NASCAR*, *NCAA Football*, *Scholastic*, and *Docurama* entertainment labels.

Drafted, redlined, reviewed, and provided commentary for agreements and negotiations related to digital licensing and entertainment distribution, including video, television, Internet (download, streaming, peer-to-peer, DRM, VOD, OTT, etc.).

Oversaw compliance of deliverables, including Errors & Omissions policies, Copyright and Title Reports, and Clearances. Worked with CEO, GM, and outside counsel to systematize digital rights expansion and new use definitions.

## **ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, Publishers)**, Legal Intern

2006

Reviewed, compiled, proofread and prepared agreements, legal correspondence, research and memoranda related to copyright, trademark, entertainment licensing, music contests/competitions, testamentary charitable gifts in General Counsel's office.

## **EXPERIENCE – ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

### **2 Life! Films and New Media, LLC**, Managing Partner

1999 - 2007

Launched indie film and Internet startup financed by third-party private equity and oversaw review of agreements, PPMs.

Managed staffs that ranged from 2 to 50+, depending on the stages of development for a given project.

Negotiated terms of all agreements with vendors, cast, crew, employees, agents, distributors (domestic and foreign), licensees.

Launched interactive web sites, including *CastOurMovie.com*, historic model for crowd-sourced voting in entertainment (pre-dating *American Idol* and *Last Comic Standing*) and first site to invite global audience to choose stars of a movie.

Served as Consultant/Panelist for film festivals.

Produced theatrically-distributed feature *Returning Mickey Stern*, starring Tom Bosley (*Happy Days*) and Joe Bologna (*Big Daddy*), on DVD from Pathfinder Pictures. Associate-Produced Tribeca entry *The Look* and Sundance entry *Perpetual Life of Jim Albers*.

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## **The Jewish Theatre Ensemble**, Artistic Director/Founder

1995 - 1996

Established still-prosperous 25+ year old organization that stages non-profit events, productions, and co-productions (including Steppenwolf Theater), based out of Northwestern University.

## HONORS

Featured in the book, *Independent Feature Film Distribution* by Phil Hall; also in *Time Magazine*, *New York Times*, *Newsday*, *Daily News*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Industry Standard*, *ABC News*, *NY1*, *Hollywood Reporter*, *NY Law Journal*, *National Jurist*, *JUF News*, *Chicago Jewish News*, *Jewish Journal of Los Angeles*, *San Francisco Jewish Bulletin*, and more.

Long Island Film & TV Foundation Grant – Recipient; Los Angeles Film Festival Production Grant - Finalist

1996-97 Hillel International's *Elie Wiesel National Award for Jewish Cultural Programming* – Recipient

## OTHER

Little League Baseball Coach, *Forest Hills Little League*, *Half Hollow Hills Little League*

Volunteer, *Native Eyes Medical Mission* to Rosebud Reservation, Mission, SD

Member, *Northwestern University Leadership Circle*

Podcast Host, *How I Broke Into: Deep Dives Into Big Breaks*; guests include: Emmy winner Reed Morano (“A Handmaid’s Tale”), bestseller Hal Elrod (“The Miracle Morning”), National Book Award nominee Taffy Brodesser-Akner (“Fleishman is in Trouble”)

Longtime Participant, Mud Obstacle Course Races including *Spartan*, *Warrior Dash*, *Terrain Race*, *Rugged Maniac*

One of the youngest contestants selected for the television quiz show *Win Ben Stein’s Money*

Creator, *The T.E.E.M. Matrix*

Alum of Long Island High School of the Arts (formerly BOCES Cultural Arts Center for Gifted Artists) in the Visual Arts

## EDUCATION

**Maurice A. Deane Hofstra University School of Law**, Hempstead, NY - *Juris Doctor*

Dean’s List, recognized as Ambassador and Dean’s Scholar (awarded to law students within top 15%)

**Awarded Full Tuition Merit Scholarship, attended law school while maintaining a full work schedule**

**University of California, Los Angeles**, Westwood, CA - *Yearlong Certificate Program* (School of Radio, TV, Film)

**Intensive one-year post-graduate program in writing for film and television**

**Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL - *Bachelor of Science* (School of Speech)

Dean’s List

**One of 12 selected for Creative Writing for the Media Program (colleagues from program include top Hollywood showrunners and writers)**