That’s Entertainment

“All the world’s a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts —
Shakespeare, “As You Like It” (Act II, Scene VII)

“It’s all a circus, kid. A three ring circus. These trials - the whole world - all show business.” — Chicago (prelude to “Razzle Dazzle”)

“It’s not show friends, it’s show business.” — “Jerry Maguire”

Do you go to the movies at least three times a week? Do you have a lifetime subscription to People Magazine? Do you spend hours viewing the special features section of DVDs, because you find the commentaries and behind-the-scenes elements as interesting as the film itself? Well, do you Bunkie?*
Then drop your current boring practice and spice things up with a generous serving of entertainment law. But be forewarned, while the prospect of representing celebrities in this celebrity-obsessed culture may be titillating and can result in professional notoriety, this practice area is not for the timid.

What Is “Entertainment Law”?

Entertainment law is, to a large extent, merely the practice of law, but law practiced in and around the parallel universe called show business. It is also first cousin to that unique entertainment venue, sports law. According to Stanford Law School’s Entertainment Law course description: “Entertainment law is not, in and of itself, a separate legal discipline. Instead, the practice of entertainment law lies at the intersection of various traditional legal disciplines, such as contract, tort, copyright, trademark, antitrust, secured transactions, etc., and applies those disciplines to a unique business setting” (at http://www.law.stanford.edu/program/courses/details/297/Entertainment%20Law/). Whatever dude, but represent sad old Joe Btfsplk** in a fender-bender lawsuit and nobody gives a darn, not even your significant other. But represent Britney Spears in a fender-bender lawsuit and all of a sudden you are the center of attention at cocktail parties. In a purely representational capacity, entertainment law functions include generous amounts of the laws of contracts, torts, business organizations, intellectual property, and taxation issues. But entertainment law often goes beyond

Frank J. Cavaliere, Esq., is a Professor of Business Law and former Chair of the Department of Administrative Services in the College of Business at Lamar University, in Beaumont, Texas. His email address is cavalierfj@my.lamar.edu, and his Web site is www.webwiselawyer.com.