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From left: Michael Weinstein, Marty Singer, Brian Wolf and Lynda Goldman

The prominent entertainment litigation firm of Lavelly & Singer PC celebrates its 45th anniversary this year. The 16-lawyer boutique, led by managing partner Martin D. Singer — known universally as Marty — can look back at a billboard’s worth of A-list clients from the show biz, business, political and sports worlds.

“A lot of entertainment firms don’t do much litigation,” said Singer, whose reputation as a street fighter has led to the nickname Pit Bull to the Stars. “But litigation is what I wanted to do. We developed our niche.”

The firm proudly recites its client roster: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone, Kevin Costner, Martin Scorsese, Nicholas Cage, Harrison Ford, Magic Johnson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Adam Sandler, Serena Williams, Eddie Murphy, Ben Affleck, Jennifer Lopez, Tony Robbins, Tom Hanks, Paris Hilton, Lizzo, Hailey Bieber, Eva Longoria, Ellen DeGeneres, Scarlett Johansson, Matthew McConaughey, Selena Gomez, Gerard Butler, Miramax LLC, Hasbro Inc. and many more.

In an early headline-grabber a quarter-century ago, Singer won \$2 million for Priscilla Presley from film producers who misused her name to promote a movie. *Presley v. Grant et al.*, SC063828 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed Oct. 31, 2000).

Vanity Fair called Singer, “The bane of studio chiefs and tabloid editors ... a rabid defender of stars in trouble.” American Lawyer referred to Singer’s lengthy, often pugnacious representation of Schwarzenegger by terming him “Arnold’s Bouncer.”

Singer and co-founder John H. “Jay” Lavelly Jr., now retired, said they committed themselves to three principles when they opened the doors in 1980: unflinching tenacity, strategic creativity and relentless hard work.

That credo impressed many, including some who met them in the courtroom as foes. “I was opposing counsel, and I joined up 35 years ago,” said firm member Brian G. Wolf, whose bio lists specialties that suggest his firm’s domains of interest: right of publicity law, libel, slander and defamation and copyright law.

“Like Brian, I met Marty as an adversary,” said member Lynda B. Goldman, who joined the firm in 1991. “It was my very first court appearance as a lawyer, and I knew right away I should be afraid of arguing against him. To my surprise, I ended up winning the case — but I knew I wanted to be on his side.”

Member Michael E. Weinstein lateraled on board 14 years ago. “Marty was representing

Mike Myers, and I was on the other side,” he said. “It was my introduction to the kind of aggressive litigation tactics I knew I wanted to practice. Coming here was the best move I’ve made.” He’s since successfully represented Paris Hilton, Drake, Selena Gomez, James Woods and Ellen DeGeneres. On behalf of one television executive terminated in breach of his contract, Weinstein obtained a \$13 million arbitration award.

In a current high-profile case, Singer won more than \$700,000 and is seeking \$1 million in fees in counterclaims as he represented Jason Sudeikis and Olivia Wilde in arbitration with their former nanny over a wrongful termination suit. *Genaro v. Wilde et al.*, 23STCV03154 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed Feb. 14, 2023).

The nanny’s claims made headlines when she demanded loss of earnings and other employment benefits, plus punitive damages on claims she was driven to quit a stressful job, then summarily fired. A Los Angeles trial judge moved the case to arbitration in New York, where Singer and his team prevailed. The outcome awaits confirmation by the trial court.

“The nanny gets zero,” Singer said.