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Entertainment Law Circular

April 2018

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Remembering Mitzi Shore (July 25, 1930 - April 11, 2018)

It is with great sadness and very heavy hearts that we mourn the passing of our client, **Mitzi Shore**, the legendary founder and artistic leader of the world famous **Comedy Store**.



Mitzi was an extraordinary businesswoman decades ahead of her time who cultivated and celebrated the artistry of stand-up comedy.

She was also a loving mother, not only to her own four children, **Scott, Sandi, Peter, and Pauly**, but to the myriad of comedians who adored her. She leaves behind an indelible mark and legacy that changed the face of comedy. We will all miss her dearly.

Those who would like to join **Pierce Law Group LLP** in honoring her memory can render a donation to **The Comedy Store Comedian's Assistance Fund c/o the Motion Picture and Television Fund** which is administering

Now Playing

Pierce Law Group Goes Overboard





Pierce Law Group LLP is proud to have provided certain additional legal services for our client **MGM** on the feature film "Overboard" which opens in theaters on May 4th. This remake of the '80s **Goldie Hawn** classic stars **Ana Faris, Eugenio Derbez** and the always lovely and talented **Eva Longoria**. Click the photo above to watch the trailer.

Packchella 2 Comedy Music Festival at The Pack Theater

Once again, Hollywood's pay-what-you-can **Pack Theater** hosts **Packchella 2 Comedy Music Festival**. This three-day event, **April 27-29** is dedicated to musical comedy and doesn't require wandering a desert polo field in the sweltering heat. Dozens of solo artists and groups will perform comedy and music! Songs, Improv, Sketch and Character pieces. The Festival is produced by Pierce Law Group LLP's own **Ben Kerschner**.

Pierce Law Group client **Ari Stidham**, star of the CBS drama **Scorpion**, will show off his many other creative skills aside from acting, as he stages excerpts from his musical comedy theatrical play, which he wrote and composed, entitled "Solo Must Die: A Star Wars Musical." The performance is on **Sunday, April 29th at 8 pm**.

The **Pack Theater** is located in the heart of Hollywood at **6470 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90038**.

View the full schedule [here](#).

"Presence of their Absence" screens at DGA's "Director's Finder Series"



and **Television Fund** which is administering this newly founded fund that is a fulfillment of **Mitzi's** dream to design a charity to help comedians who have hit hard times and are in need of financial or other social services-type help.

To render a tax deductible donation for this cause go to: <https://www.mptf.com/donate> -- in the gift notes write: "*Donation for The Comedian's Assistance Fund In Memory of Mitzi*" and the funds will be earmarked accordingly.

Important Reminder For Clients With Companies Established or Doing Business in Delaware: Delaware's Annual Tax Deadline for LLCs, LLPs, and General Partnership is June 1st.

All limited liability companies, limited partnerships, and general partnerships registered to do business in the state of Delaware are required to pay Delaware's annual tax of \$300 due on or before June 1 of each year (pursuant to Title 6 of the Delaware Code).

Payments are only considered timely if received by June 1st (a mere postmark showing June 1st is not sufficient). Failure to meet the deadline will result in a \$200 penalty fee, as well as interest on the combined total of the annual tax and penalty fee, which accrues at a rate of 1.5% per month until fully paid. These penalties and interests are mandatory regardless of the reason for delay and cannot be waived. Failure to pay will also lose their status as an entity in good standing.

If you have questions about this tax obligation, contact Pierce Law Group's **Trea Tran-Lachowicz, Esq.** at: trea@piercellp.com or call 310-274-9191.

Upcoming Seminars & Firm Speaking Events

On the evening of **May 5, 2018**, **David Albert Pierce** will be briefly speaking in his capacity as Vice Chair of the the Beverly Hills Bar Assoc.'s Entertainment Law Committee, at the BHBA's Entertainment Lawyer of the Year dinner honoring **Cliff Gilbert-Lurie** of **Ziffren Brittenham LLP** at the Montage Beverly Hills. The Master of Ceremonies for this event is **Drew Carey**, and among the celebrity speakers honoring Cliff will be **Sandra Bullock** and **Dick Wolf**. This event is sold out.

On **May 8th**, **David Albert Pierce** concludes teaching his semester long undergraduate class entitled "**Media Law & Ethics**" for **Elon University's Semester in LA Program**. This is the fifth year David has served as an Adjunct



The DGA Independent Director's Committee has selected **"The Presence of Their Absence"** for screening on Friday, May 11th at 3pm as part of its Director's Finder Series.

One of the greatest sources of Holocaust documentation comes from testimonies of survivors through memory reconstruction in documentary films. **Pierce Law Group LLP's client, filmmaker Donna Kanter**, always wondered what happened after the survivors rebuilt their lives with post-war children who inherited their trauma. Did the children fill in the blanks if their parents could not speak about their experiences? Or were they inundated with harrowing images? Her documentary **"The Presence of Their Absence"** examines this subject in a most compelling way. To read more: <https://thepresenceoftheirabsence.com/>

Screening at the Director's Finder Series is primarily reserved for Acquisitions Executives and DGA Members, however, some additional seats may be available, if interested, contact Pierce Law Group Client Liaison Will Mavity for seating availability: [DGA Screening Seat Availability](#) or contact the DGA directly at: spevents@dga.org

Annie & The True Blues Friday May 11th at Vitello's



Pierce Law Group LLP's client (and youngest sibling of John and Joan Cusack), **Ann Cusack ("Better Call Saul")** steps away from her primary acting responsibilities to show off her incredible singing voice with her band **"Annie & The True Blues"** appearing **Friday, May 11th** at **Vitello's Super Club** in Studio City, California. **Show** begins at **7:40 pm**. Tickets are \$25. Tickets & dinner reservations can be made at www.vitellosrestaurant.com or call **818-769-0905**.

Professor for this class.

On May 16th from Noon - 2pm, the Beverly Hills Bar Association's Entertainment Law Section will present a Production Insurance Panel entitled **"Are You Covered? Or Naked and Afraid?"** The panel is Co-Chaired by Pierce Law Group's own **David Albert Pierce** along with attorney **Larry Verbit**. Panelists will include: **Winnie Wong, Sr. VP of Momentous Insurance** and author of "Hollywood Studio Production Techniques," **Bob Remmel of Entertainment Partners**, and **Conrad Dowling, Managing Director of Gallagher Entertainment** a global leader of providing risk management strategies for all aspects of the entertainment industry. This program is suitable for both lawyers and non-lawyers alike and answers every question you may ever have had about production insurance. A special registration price of \$99 for non-lawyers has been established for this program and includes the prime rib lunch at **Lawry's Prime Rib**. To register, click here: [Production Insurance Panel Registration](#)

On Saturday May 26th and Sunday May 27th, **David Albert Pierce** will be delivering a 2 day seminar program at **Shanghai University** in China and will be lecturing on **"An Analysis of the Similarities and Differences in Legal Issues Affecting Film Productions in China and the United States."** David will be co-speaking during the two day event with an esteemed Chinese entertainment attorney as the two discuss how films are financed, produced and distributed in both countries, and the opportunities that exist for producers and investors in each country.

TELL HHS AND CONGRESS: THE PROPOSED REGS CONCERNING SHORT-TERM HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS ARE DANGEROUS FOR CANCER PATIENTS.

Remember when cancer patients used to be denied treatment if their disease was deemed a "pre-existing condition"?

It was all too recently -- and now, our watchdog friends at the Leukemia Lymphoma Society have informed us that this threat is coming back again, as a loophole in short-term health insurance plans that lack critical protections for cancer patients. And presently, the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is proposing a new regulation that will encourage more people to sign up for these

Anti-Defamation League Entertainment Industry Division
Salutes Nancy Dubac



Nancy Dubac accepts her honor.

On April 17, 2018, David Albert Pierce joined other entertainment industry leaders at the swanky Beverly Hilton ballroom to honor **Nancy Dubac**, former CEO & President of **A&E Networks** and newly named CEO of **VICE Media** at the **Anti-Defamation League's annual Entertainment Industry Leaders Gala**. Dubac was bestowed this honor for her work in programming television shows that celebrate diversity and attack prejudice.



encourage more people to sign up for these plans -- even though they admit the plans would increase healthcare costs for cancer patients and taxpayers!

Tell Congress that short-term insurance plans are extremely dangerous for cancer patients.

Dear Congressman:

The new proposed HHS regulations seeking to expand and encourage the reach of short-term insurance plans is a disgrace. The proposed regs discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions -- refusing to sell them insurance and denying lifesaving care when they receive a cancer diagnosis. But it actually gets worse. The HHS regs allow these plans to provide:

- *Limited or no coverage for cancer care. These plans are not required to cover Essential Health Benefits, such as prescription drugs or other important blood cancer treatments;*
- *Outrageous deductibles and extremely high annual out of pocket spending -- potentially as high as \$80,000/year; and*
- *Lifetime/annual limits which take away coverage and access to cancer care when cancer patients need it most.*

As my representative, I implore you to voice your objections to the HHS and stop these regulations from being enacted.

Sincerely,

Time and again, we've seen that when enough people come together, we can make sure our leaders take positive action to protect cancer patients and survivors. That's why we urgently need to raise our voice now. Tell Congress that cancer patients deserve better than potentially deadly short-term plans. To contact your Congressman with just a few easy clicks, click here: [Directory of Congressional Representatives](#) then find your Congressman, click his "Contact by email" button and cut and paste the above letter or write your own.

To write to the Health & Human Service Commission Secretary Alex M Azar, II directly click here: Secretary@HHS.gov

Remember Safety First When Filming with Pyrotechnics in California

DID YOU KNOW? The State Fire Marshal's office delegates a full time Deputy State Fire Marshal for film production in California who is responsible for the licensing of pyrotechnicians



David with ADL Regional Board Chair attorney Ivy Kagan Bierman, partner at the powerhouse entertainment law firm Loeb & Loeb.

In her speech, Dubuc stated: *"[The entertainment industry] can change society's perceptions. We can use the power of storytelling to illuminate all types of people, all types of circumstances, and all types of worlds. . . one sentiment which ADL repeatedly focuses on that has really stuck with me is 'There is no them. There is only us.'"*

Dubuc joins an impressive list of previous honorees including **Mark Burnett, Roma Downey, Bonnie Hammer, Jeffrey Katzenberg, Ken Solomon, Tim Leiweke, Bill Prady, Ben Silverman and Steven Spielberg.**

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and certifying industry and fire personnel through special effects & pyrotechnics training seminars.

The Deputy State Fire Marshal provides advice and guidance to the industry and to local jurisdictions on safety policies and regulations. The Fire Marshal also provides approval (and may require fire safety officer on the set) for productions on state properties. Special effects, indoor filming, large crews, projectile pyrotechnics and filming during fire season or in fire-sensitive areas are examples of activities that may warrant, the requirement of a fire safety officer.

The Deputy State Fire Marshal works closely with the California Film Commission, the Motion Picture Association of America's Industry-wide Safety Committee, the Studio Safety Mngmnt Group, SAG-AFTRA's Stunt Safety Committee, the Alliance of Special Effects and Pyrotechnic Operators and other industry organizations to ensure the continued safety on sets.

Contact Pierce Law Group's **Anthony Hanna, Esq.** for further information on this and other safety in the workplace issues at **(310) 274-9191** or via email at: tony@piercellp.com





About Pierce Law Group LLP

Pierce Law Group LLP is a full service, boutique entertainment law firm that provides both transactional and litigation legal services. Our practice areas include entertainment law, intellectual property (copyright, trademarks, right of publicity), film finance, securities law, production counsel, and labor & employment issues affecting the entertainment industry, with an emphasis on film, television, and new media. We represent production companies and other creative businesses as well as artists including producers, actors, writers, directors, comedians, and other entrepreneurs. Our client list includes both Academy Award and Emmy Award winners. We utilize an academic and analytic legal approach to accomplish creative solutions to our clients' goals.

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