

# Manatt Beefs Up Entertainment Practice with Gibson Dunn Litigator

By Jessie Yount

## What You Need to Know

- Nathaniel Bach has joined Manatt, Phelps & Phillips' entertainment group from Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.
- Bach has represented clients including Rachel Maddow and Universal Music Group in litigation.

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips has brought on an entertainment litigator from Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, amid a flurry of other Big Law lateral moves, as innovation continues to drive disruption in the media and entertainment landscape.

The firm said on Thursday it added Nathaniel Bach as a partner in its Los Angeles office. Bach, who previously spent over two decades at Gibson Dunn, has represented clients including television studios and networks, record companies, music publishers and journalists.

Bach was part of the team that represented Rachel Maddow in a \$10 million defamation suit brought by One America News in

2020. The Ninth Circuit affirmed dismissal of the case in August.

And Bach was named one of Am Law Litigation Daily's Litigators of the Week in 2020, as part of a trio that extinguished a \$100 million suit against Universal Music Group. The suit arose after a 2008 warehouse fire reportedly destroyed master recordings by music legends including Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Chuck Berry, Aretha Franklin, Buddy Holly, Sammy Davis Jr., Joni Mitchell, the Police and Nirvana.

Bach, whose practice focuses on core litigation, general counseling and strategic pre-litigation advice, said joining Manatt "is a natural fit to keep growing my practice, especially at a time when the explosion of content related to streaming and other innovative developments continues to impact how my clients operate."

He comes to Manatt shortly after entertainment partner Christopher Chatham and associate Sandra Bignone, both of



Courtesy photo

**Nathaniel Bach of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips.**

whom joined the firm earlier this month from Chatham Law Group. Chatham has represented television shows, including "Dr. Phil" and "The Doctors," according to a report from Variety.

In other industry moves this month, Gibson Dunn nabbed transactional entertainment lawyer Steve Tsoneff in Century City. Tsoneff was general counsel and head of business affairs at Madison Wells Media between 2017 and 2021. He began his legal career at Gibson Dunn, where he previously served as co-chair of the firm's media, entertainment & technology practice.

Gibson Dunn did not immediately respond to request for comment on Bach's departure.