

## Hal "Corky" Kessler

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### Professional Bio

Corky joined DLE in 2010. He has extensive entertainment law, corporate and worldwide entertainment industry experience. Corky regularly speaks on the business and legal aspects of feature film development and tax incentives in connection with the entertainment industry and has participated in seminars and conducted speaking engagements throughout the United States and Canada. He has been the lead speaker for many years at Sundance where he has conducted seminars on "Funding" and "Legal and Business Pitfalls, Screenplays through Distribution" and has also been a lead speaker at many other film festivals all over the country.



Corky has been the attorney on over 15 feature films and is actively working on over 12 more film projects. Corky is currently working on setting up several film funds throughout the Country. He has represented and executive produced over 18 feature films, theatre projects, including feature films with Russell Crowe, Jonathan Winters and Robin Williams, including "The Sum of Us" starring Russell Crowe, which won the Australian Academy Award for Best Film and "Certifiably Jonathan" starring Jonathan Winters, Robin Williams, Howie Mandel, Rob Reiner, Nora Dunn, Jimmy Kimmel, Jim Carrey, Sara Silverman and others. Corky has also developed, been a producer on and the attorney for many theatrical plays. They include: "Driving Miss Daisy" (A Joseph-Jefferson Winner), "Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune", "Steel Magnolias", "Shirley Valentine" and others.

Corky teaches an entertainment law as an Adjunct Professor at Northwestern Law School and John Marshall Law School,. He previously developed a syllabus for and taught a similar course at Columbia College in its Film Department. He has also written articles for Screen Magazine and other film and entertainment magazines and periodicals.

He has successfully worked with governors and United States Congressmen in several states to implement new laws and federal tax incentives for investments in qualifying film and television projects, which led to Sections 181 and 199 of The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 and the 2008 extension and amendment to same. Corky has also authored a reference book covering such federal and state tax incentives.

### Education

John Marshall Law School, J.D. *summa cum laude*, 1974  
Ohio State University, B.S./B.A.

### Admissions

Illinois  
United States District Court, N.D. Illinois  
United States Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit

### Associations

Chicago Bar Association  
American Bar Association