

## Labor Pays Off With Teaching Gig for Local Attorney

At the same time the 100-day Writers Guild of America strike was disrupting Hollywood, **Jonathan Handel** frequently found himself in a starring role — as an analyst on entertainment industry labor issues.

Handel, of counsel in Century City-based law firm TroyGould's entertainment, sports and media department, became a particularly sought-after interviewee during the Novem-

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ber 2007-February 2008 strike, speaking with journalists from newspapers, TV and radio. He even launched his own blog, penned op-ed pieces for various publications (including the Business Journal) and wrote a book, "Hollywood on Strike!," which will be published later this year.

Handel doesn't practice entertainment labor law at TroyGould, and he said that helps him speak objectively. "It allows me to call things as I see them. I don't have clients on either side of the table."

His experience led to him booking a new gig as an adjunct professor at UCLA law school, where he will teach a semester course

on entertainment and media law and policy, focusing on unions and guilds.

Teaching at a university is the "family business," said Handel, whose father, mother and brother are college professors. "I'm the black sheep of the family because I'm the only one without a Ph.D. Now I'll have 'adjunct professor' in front of my name."

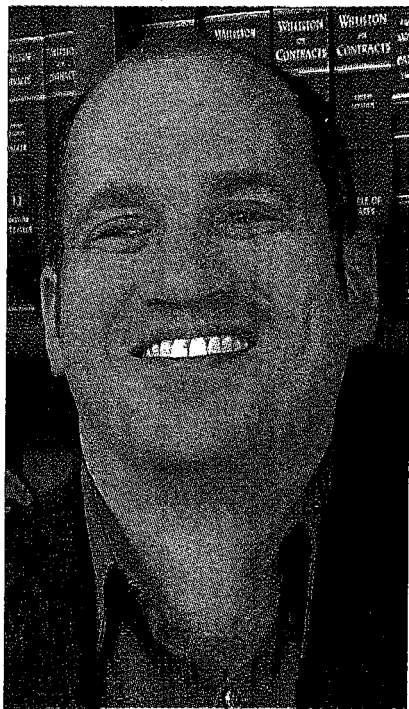
The former Scarsdale, N.Y., resident, who graduated from Harvard with a bachelor's degree in 1983 and a law degree in 1990, said he has gone native when it comes to Los Angeles.

"I can't see myself living anywhere other than L.A.," said Handel, who drives a bright red convertible.

Handel is single and lives in the Hollywood Hills. In between working at TroyGould, blogging and perfecting his course's syllabus, he is writing another book, "On the Record: 101 Tips on Working With the Media." It will provide pointers on how to give the press good quotes.

"It's about 85 percent done. I need to find a weekend to just finish it," he said. "I understand media and sound bites in a way that kind of horrifies my parents."

— *Susannah Snider*



Handel: Harvard grad has gone native.