

On a related front, Grossman is involved working pro bono to help Agudas Chasidei Chabad—an Orthodox Jewish organization—recover religious texts dating back to the 1700s that were seized during the Bolshevik Revolution and Second World War by the Russian Federation.

Grossman's had his share of celebrity cases as well, counseling J.K. Rowling, Steven Spielberg, Clint Eastwood, Mariah Carey and Larry King. Before the O.J. Simpson murder trial, a confidant of Simpson asked Grossman to handle expert witness work. He declined, but recommended a lawyer who should handle the entire case: Johnnie Cochran.

One early celebrity case involved Liberace and his long-time chauffeur/lover Scott Thorson. When the couple split, Thorson sued for half of Liberace's assets. "It was really the first gay palimony lawsuit," Grossman says. As Liberace hadn't officially "come out," Grossman didn't want to put him on the stand. Instead, during the deposition, he asked Thorson, "Is it your testimony that in exchange for sex, Liberace promised to give you half his assets?" Thorson responded, "Yes." Grossman then won a summary judgment for dismissal on the grounds that it was an illegal contract for prostitution.

A "ripped from today's Web gossip" client is Erin Andrews, the ESPN sidelines sportscaster whose surreptitiously taken nude video in her hotel room was, for several days, the most searched for item on the Internet. Grossman has been involved in tracking down the perpetrator and barring hundreds of Web sites from displaying the video. "This could happen to anyone. People think she was complicit. We're working to protect her

reputation and career, as well as legally," Grossman says. Her stalker has since been arrested and faced trial in January 2010.

Environmentalism is another passion, and during the '80s he served as a commissioner of the California Coastal Commission. "I stood between James Watt and Ronald Reagan and off-shore oil drilling in the state because I tied them up in knots when they wanted to open up the entire California coast. I'm very proud of that."

By the early 1980s, Grossman was indeed leading his firm, Alschuler Grossman, as he had predicted and in 2007, just as unpredictable as ever, it combined with Bingham McCutchen. "I acquired 950 lawyers but we kept the Bingham name. They just don't know that." Then, getting serious, he says, "It was time. It helps ensure the success for our next generation of lawyers."

Part of ensuring that success is mentoring his junior members. "I tell them that it's most important to get their health and finances in order. Once you take care of yourself, you can focus your energies on helping your clients."

Grossman says that despite the economy, Bingham is thriving. "We're poised for our best year ever."

Since the merger, Grossman says he's working harder than ever but enjoying it more. Three years ago he took up yoga, and now has a yoga mat in his office. A yoga trainer comes to his office or house two or three times weekly. He also reheated his swimming pool for the first time in a decade and has resumed swimming on a daily basis. "I'm having a great time and want to stick around another 50 years."

That's something both Marshall Grossmans will settle for. ◀

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LEFT TO RIGHT: Philip Klein, Adrian Lopez, Mark Kovinsky, Stephanie Rosenberg, Kenneth Kleinberg, Peter Lopez, Christine Cuddy, Uri Emerson-Fleming, Robert Lange, Gary Fine

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