

## Runaway Production, Piracy Biggest Issues Facing Film Industry



During his keynote speech at the Business Forecast Conference luncheon, Senator Chris Dodd called on not only legislators but other stakeholders to rectify the issues facing the entertainment industry, particularly in the Valley.

“While litigation and legislation can be important, I do not believe we can just litigate or legislate our way out of this problem,” the President/CEO of the **Motion Picture Association of America** told 400-plus attendees of the event. “I do believe that all players in the Internet and IP ecosystem, copyright owners, and the various intermediaries that facilitate online commerce and speech, the ISPs, the advertising networks, and payment processors, share a common responsibility to address this issue.”

The issue at hand was piracy, one of the two biggest challenges that Dodd addressed in his keynote. The other was the amount of film, television and commercial filming taking place outside of California because of attractive tax credits and other incentives.

“The size and number of available tax credits [in California] needs to be increased and bigger productions must be allowed to qualify,” Dodd said.

The luncheon was sponsored by **Caruso Affiliated** and **The Disney Company**.

## Consensus is on Slow Economic Growth at Forecast Breakfast

Veteran moderator Don St. Clair (**Woodbury University**) experienced a first at VICA’s 25th Annual Business Forecast Breakfast: All three economists presented similar predictions.

More than 400 conference attendees listened to a national forecast from David Heidel Jr., Regional Investment Manager, **US Bank**; a state forecast from Marc Doss, Regional Chief Investment Officer, **Wells Fargo Private Bank**; and a regional forecast from William Roberts, Director of the SFV Economic Research Center & Professor of Economics, **California State University, Northridge**.

The consensus was that we should expect a “tepid” and “slow” recovery on all levels and that any noticeable shift will occur two or three years out -- not in 2014. The next year should show continued improvement in employment rates and real estate values.

However, the coastal regions are seeing healthier improvements in these areas than the inland area, and healthcare/senior care will see the most growth of any industry.

The breakfast was sponsored by **US Bank** and **CSUN**, and **Mayer Brown** sponsored the forecast’s breakfast buffet.



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## Holding Down the Tort

Moderated by Coby King

**High Point Strategies, LLC**

- Caryn Brottman Sanders, **Tharpe & Howell LLP** / San Fernando Valley Bar Association
- California State Assemblymember Mike Gatto (D-Burbank)
- Lisa Maki, Law Offices of Lisa L. Maki / Consumer Attorneys of Los Angeles
- Kimberly Stone, **Civil Justice Association of California**

*With a strong focus on medical malpractice, the panelists agreed that illegitimate lawsuits are creating the majority of the tort-related problems for businesses, patients, customers, and court system. Panelists also discussed reforming class action suits, ADA suits and Prop 65 suits.*

## The Nanny State

Moderated by Johnnie Perkins

**Republic Services, Inc**

- Jon Coupal, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
- Richard Holober, Consumer Federation of California
- John Kabateck, National Federation of Independent Business

*Two results of California's regulatory policies is that businesses are moving out of state and business is going underground -- mostly due to taxes, panelists claimed. Much of the discussion revolved around Prop 13 and the pros and cons of a split-roll proposal, which would change how commercial property is taxed.*



## Switching Gears

Moderated by John Bunzel

**Morgan Stanley**

- Susan Castillo, Project Lead the Way
- Joe Klocko, Center for Applied and Competitive Technologies at College of the Canyon
- Ilse Metchek, California Fashion Association
- Robert Sanger, California Manufacturing and Technology Association

*Panelists determined that improved manufacturing training requires a paradigm shift so that students, educators and*

*workers see the job type differently. Additionally, the panelists touched on reforming the eight-hour work day and workers' compensation.*

## Building Momentum

Moderated by Brad Cox

**Trammel Crow Company**

- Natalie Bazarevitsch, **CBRE Group**
- Lawrence Bailey, **JPMorgan Chase**
- Steve Johnson, Metrostudy, a Hanley Wood Company
- Kirk Lesh, Center for Economic Research and Forecasting, **California Lutheran University**

*Real estate and development is a crucial element to a local recovery, and public-private investments and cutting red tape for developers will help speed up the recovery, panelists concluded. Particularly, the Valley has very low inventory for industrial space.*



## Stayin' Alive

Moderated by Alan Katz

**SeeChange Health**

- Karen Kirkpatrick, Infinisource
- Chris Patton, Covered California Small Business Health Options Program
- Haley Wiener, **L/B/W Insurance and Insurance Services**
- Mark Wilbur, Employers Group

*Technology will play a key role in implementing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or "Obamacare," panelists said. With the state exchanges now open, the group discussed how it is more important than ever to communicate with your insurance carriers and with your full-time employees who will have questions about their coverage.*

## The Big Swell

Moderated by Fiona Hutton

**Fiona Hutton & Associates**

- Jeff Kightlinger, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Jerry Meral, California Natural Resources Agency
- David Pettijohn, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
- Bruce Reznick, Planning and Conservation League

*The Bay Area Delta affects the state, the Southern California region and the SFV, panelists said. Participants focused on the funding and environmental factors involved in preventing a water shortage that would take years and billions of dollars to recover from.*

## Cruisin' in Neutral

Moderated by Jeff McConnell

**Englander, Knabe & Allen**

- Linda Bohlinger, HNTB Corporation
- Art Leahy, **Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority**
- Martin Wachs, **UCLA** and **RAND Corporation**

*With federal, state and local revenues dropping, public-private partnerships will be the key to improving traffic and congestion in the San Fernando Valley, panelists said. Additionally, the group discussed how to spend transit funds more efficiently to ensure proper design and implementation the first time for larger-scale projects.*



## Wish You Were Here

Moderated by Sam Garrison

**Caruso Affiliated**

- Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge
- Luther Lowe, Yelp Inc.
- Thomas See, **Universal Studios Hollywood**
- Ernest Wooden, **Los Angeles Convention and Tourism Board**

*The Los Angeles region is continuously adapting its tourism efforts to accommodate its changing global tourist demographics -- particularly as a result of a large Chinese tourist population and the 2016 Special Olympics and possible 2024 Summer Olympics. Panelists discussed the economic impact that tourism has on the region.*

## The Valley Industry & Commerce Association

[www.vica.com](http://www.vica.com)

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