

Harvey Levin

Harvey Robert Levin^[1] (born September 2, 1950^[2]) is an American television producer, legal analyst, journalist, and lawyer.^[3] He founded the celebrity news website *TMZ* in 2005 and later briefly served as the host of *OBJECTified* (2016–present), which aired on the *Fox News Channel*.

Early life and education

Levin was born September 2, 1950, in *Los Angeles County, California*, to a Jewish family.^{[4][5][6]} He attended high school at *Grover Cleveland High School* in *Reseda, Los Angeles*, and graduated in 1968 with honors.^{[7][8]} Levin attended the *University of California, Santa Barbara*, where he graduated with a B.A. in political science in 1972.^[9] He later attended the *University of Chicago Law School* and graduated with a J.D. in 1975.^[10]

Career

Early law career and academia

Levin was an active attorney in California for two decades, from December 18, 1975, until January 1, 1996.^[1] In the mid-1970s, he taught law at the *University of Miami School of Law* under *Soia Mentschikoff*.^{[10][11]} He then practiced law briefly in *Los Angeles* before taking a position at *Whittier College School of Law*.^{[11][6][12]}

In 1978, Levin came to public attention following a series of high-profile debates with *Howard Jarvis*, the co-author of *Proposition 13*, California's controversial property tax-reduction ballot measure, which Levin opposed. With his newfound fame, Levin began to contribute legal advice on a radio show, where he was nicknamed "Doctor Law", as well as to write columns for the *Los Angeles Times*.^{[12][11][6]} His columnist career with the *Times* spanned seven years.^[12]

Harvey Levin



Levin in 2010

Born	Harvey Robert Levin September 2, 1950 Los Angeles, California, U.S.
Education	<i>University of California, Santa Barbara</i> (BA) <i>University of Chicago</i> (JD)
Occupations	Television producer · lawyer · legal analyst · journalist
Known for	Founder of <i>TMZ</i>
Partner	Andy Mauer

Transition to entertainment

Levin covered legal issues for KNBC-TV in 1982.^[12] He subsequently joined KCBS-TV and spent a decade doing investigative reporting and legal analysis,^{[12][11][6]} most notably covering the O. J. Simpson murder case.^{[12][11][6]} In 1997, he was named co-executive producer and on-air legal anchor for *The People's Court*. Levin remained on the show until its cancellation in July 2023.^{[11][13][12]} He created *Celebrity Justice*, which ran from 2002 to 2005.^{[11][6]}

Levin produced *Beyond Twisted*, which aired in 2009 for one season before being canceled.^[14] He created *Famous in 12* (2014), an experiment in exploiting a family for quick fame,^[15] but the show was canceled after less than one season, with only five of the scheduled twelve episodes having aired.^[16]

In 2005, AOL and Telepictures Productions launched TMZ with Levin as the founder and managing editor.^{[12][18][19]} The website quickly rose to prominence when it broke the story of Mel Gibson's DUI arrest and subsequent antisemitic rant.^{[12][11][6][18]} It continued to break a number of high-profile stories including the abuse of Rihanna by Chris Brown and the deaths of Heath Ledger, Brittany Murphy, Michael Jackson, and Kobe Bryant.^[6] The *Los Angeles Times* named TMZ's coverage of the Jackson death as the biggest story the website had covered to date.^[20]

This is not television. It's rawer, it's urgent, it's less produced. I really think this is the future. People want to get what they can get on-demand, and they have as much access to a computer as they do a TV set.

—Levin in a 2005 interview with *Television Week*^[17]

Harvey Levin Productions has produced Levin's media projects since he joined *The People's Court* in 1983 as the show's legal consultant.^[11] In 1985, Levin wrote *The People's Court: How to Tell It to the Judge*, reviewing and providing commentary on several cases from the show.^[21] *The Library Journal* "recommended [the book] for public libraries."^[21]

Personal life

Levin appeared as an event speaker for the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association in April 2010 in which he publicly confirmed his self-identification as gay.^[22] He discussed his fear of losing his career if someone were to find out, which led to Levin compartmentalizing his personal and professional lives.^{[22][23]}

Levin's longtime partner is Andy Mauer, a chiropractor in Southern California.^{[24][25][26]} The two own multiple properties together, sharing joint-deed listings since the late 1990s and early 2000s.^{[24][25]} Levin has been named to *Out* magazine's "Power 50" list as one of the most influential voices in LGBT America since 2012 when he was named No. 15.^[27] He has since been named No. 25 in 2013, No. 34 in 2014, No. 48 in 2015, and No. 40 in 2016.^{[28][29][30][31]}

Levin supported Donald Trump in the run-up to the 2016 United States presidential election.^[32] Following the election, he met with Trump in the Oval Office on March 7, 2017, and chatted for an hour.^[33] However, by August 2018,^[34] he distanced himself from Trump over the president's

repeated attempts to establish a transgender military ban. He became an increasingly vocal opponent of Trump in the years following.^{[35][36]}

Filmography

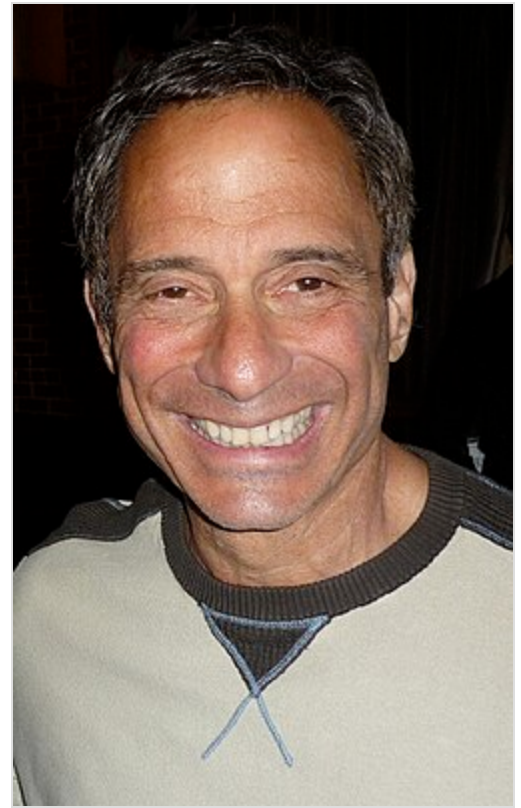
- *Volcano* (1997) – Reporter^[37]
- *Celebrity Justice* – Host^[17]
- *TMZ* (2005 to present) – Himself
- *Family Guy* S-8 Ep-14 (2010) – "Peter-assment"

Books

- *The People's Court: How to Tell it to the Judge* (1985)

Awards and honors

For his broadcast work, Levin has been nominated for nine Emmys.^[18]



Levin in 2010



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External links

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Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Harvey_Levin&oldid=1356696346"