



Robert Ryan

Partner

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Businesses regularly engage Bob, a registered patent attorney, to handle a range of domestic and international intellectual property procurement, transactional, and enforcement matters.

As a founding director-partner at what became and remains among the largest and most prominent intellectual property law firms in the Midwest and subsequently a former founder and Chief Legal Officer of a leading provider of digital multimedia distribution systems, Bob has an intimate understanding of intellectual property law and practice and the challenges his clients face.

Bob's substantial experience includes virtually all phases of patent, trade secret, trade identity, unfair competition, copyright, licensing, technical contract, and antitrust law. His work has involved numerous technologies, including electrical, electronic, mechanical, optics, software (from parallel processor operating systems to complex applications), computer hardware, satellite transmission, telecommunications, chemical-mechanical, food science, gaming, petrochemicals, mining, and rocketry. Bob also litigates on behalf of his clients, and has been trial counsel in antitrust and patent cases and other intellectual property centric cases, and held leading roles in scores of appeals and numerous patent review and trademark opposition proceedings before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

PRACTICES

Intellectual Property
 Patent Prosecution, Counseling and Opinions
 IP Litigation
 Copyrights
 Trademarks and Foreign Portfolio Management
 IP For Corporate/M&A
 IT, Software and Technology Transactions
 Trade Secrets and Non-Competes

EDUCATION

Northwestern University, J.D., 1979
 Executive Editor, *Northwestern Journal of International Law & Business*
 Deans List all semesters

University of Illinois (U-C), B.S. Industrial Engineering, 1976
 High honors
 James Scholar
 Tau Beta Pi
 Pi Mu Alpha

University of Illinois (U-C), B.A., 1976
 Major: Economics; Minor: Mathematics
 James Scholar
 Phi Kappa Phi
 Phi Eta Sigma

BAR ADMISSIONS

Nevada
 Illinois (inactive)
 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. Supreme Court
 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

EXPERIENCE

Intellectual Property Development

- Patent, trademark, and copyright portfolio development and management
- Domestic patent and trademark and copyright registration development and prosecution
- International patent and trademark registration development and prosecution

Intellectual Property Opinions and Counseling

- Patent and trademark infringement and validity analysis
- Non-infringement/invalidity opinions
- Product and trademark design and development counseling

Licensing, Technical Contracts, and Due Diligence

- Licensing and technical contract negotiations, strategies, and

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
 U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada
 U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado
 U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (including its Trial Bar)

contracts

- Strategic intellectual property acquisitions
- Product clearances
- IP due diligence
- Negotiate and draft cooperative research and development agreements, patent and trade secret licensing contracts, confidentiality agreements, and the IP aspects of small business innovation research contracts including with and for government agencies.

Pre-litigation and Litigation Strategies

- Inter Partes Review (IPRs)
- Post-Grant Review Proceedings (PGRs)
- Trademark Opposition and Cancellation Proceedings
- Pre-litigation strategies
- Intellectual property, antitrust, and inter-corporate products liability litigation and representation before the PTAB, ITC, state trial and appellate courts, Federal District Court, the Federal Circuit and other federal courts of appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court

Prior to joining Holland & Hart

During his years as CLO at StarGuide Digital Networks, Bob helped engineer the company's 2003 acquisition, via its patent portfolio, of Digital Generation Systems, Inc. (NASDAQ: DGIT). He also personally handled the company's acquisition of the Satellite Audio Division of Scientific-Atlanta and negotiated and developed its substantial development, supply, and licensing contracts with, for example, Westwood One, ABC, Clear Channel, Premier Radio Networks, One-On-One Sports Radio Network, the Mitsui Trading Company, Osaka-Usen (Japan), and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange (China).

PUBLICATIONS

"Voices: StartUps and Intellectual Property: Early action is required to protect it," *Northern Nevada Business Weekly*, Co-Author, March 2017

"Finally, Something to Protect Your Assets: The Federal 'Defends Trade Secrets Act' of 2016," *Northern Nevada Business Weekly, 2016 Business Law Guide*, Co-Author, October 2016

"Deriving Value from Patents: Legal Challenges and Strategies for Handling Them," *Nevada Business Magazine*, Co-Author, December 2012

"Deriving Value from Patents: Strategies for Handling the Legal Challenges," *Nevada Business Magazine*, Co-Author, April 2012

"Intellectual Property Due Diligence for Angel Investors," *Kaufman Foundation*, 2004

"The Evolution of Patent Damage Law," *P.L.I.*, Co-Author, November 1992

"The Limited Licensed Practitioner's Access to Essential Hospital Facilities," *National Health Lawyer's Association*, Co-Author, 1988

"The Muncie Gear Doctrine and the Effect of Section 132 Upon It," *11 Loy. Chi. L.J.* 375, 1980

"The Liabilities of Success," *Soc. Mech. Eng.*, MM79-974, 1979

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Overcoming U.S. Obviousness Double Patenting Rejection," *The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys*, June 2021

"A Life in IP Law," *Presenter, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law*, September 18, 2020

"[Patent Drafting: Tips for Avoiding and Arguing 112 Rejections](#)," *Presenter, IP Watchdog Webinar Series*, April 25, 2019

"[UNLV Law Presentation 'Practicing IP Law in Nevada in Light of Recent U.S. Supreme Court Decisions'](#)," November 4, 2014

"Licensing your Patent, Part 2," *Presenter, Nevada Inventors Association*, Reno, NV, May 21, 2014

"Protect Your Patents and Ideas!," *Presenter, Holland & Hart Breakfast Series*, Reno, NV, March 27, 2014

"Intellectual Property Protection," *Presenter, Reno ExporTech 2014*, Reno, NV, March 26, 2014

"Licensing your Patent," *Presenter, Nevada Inventors Association*, Reno, NV, March 19, 2014

"Patent Law," *C.L.E. Seminar presented by the Nevada Bar Intellectual Property Section*, Las Vegas, NV, November 2, 2012

"Recent Developments in Patent Law," *Presenter, C.L.E. Seminar presented by the Nevada Bar Intellectual Property Section*, Las Vegas, NV, November 2008

RECOGNITION

- Intellectual Asset Management, IAM Strategy 300, 2016
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Litigation - Intellectual Property, 2014-2016, 2018-2022
- Martindale-Hubbell®, AV 5.0/5.0 Preeminent® Rating
- Nevada Business Magazine, Nevada Legal Elite, 2012, 2014

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- Federal Circuit Bar Association, Member

- Federal Circuit Bar Journal Committee, Member
- U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada, Patent Local Rules Subcommittee, 2010-present, Member
- Member, Founding Director, Nevada Bar Association, Intellectual Property Section
- Chairman, 2008
- Adjunct Professor (teaching intellectual property management), formerly in the MBA School, commencing in 2017 in the Economics department, of the University of Nevada, Reno
- Annual Guest Lecturer, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law, April 2014 - Present
 - Course: "International Intellectual Property," taught by Marketa Trimble, Ph.D., Samuel S Lionel Professor of Intellectual Property Law
- Former Adjunct Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, Northwestern University Technical Institute, Evanston, Illinois
- Former Adjunct Professor of Law (teaching patent law and appellate advocacy in the Federal Circuit), The John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois
- Former Guest Lecturer: Northwestern University School of Law (patent law); University of Illinois (U-C), Industrial Design Program (intellectual property)
- Former Member, Alumni Board of the University of Illinois (U-C) School of Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering
- Member, Tau Beta Pi Association, University of Illinois (U-C)
- Member, Pi Mu Alpha Association, University of Illinois (U-C)
- Member, Phi Kappa Phi Association, University of Illinois (U-C)
- Member, Phi Eta Sigma Association, University of Illinois (U-C)
- Former Alumni Director, Phi Delta Theta House Association, University of Illinois (U-C)
- Former Director and Vice-Chairman, Unified Nevada Industries and its subsidiaries, High Sierra Industries and Washoe ARC, Washoe County, Nevada
- Volunteer for the Wild West Shootout, a prominent annual high-school basketball tournament organized and operated by the Sierra Kids Foundation and benefitting underprivileged youth participating in the Early Child Autism Project at the University of Nevada, Reno