



Ann DeFranco

Associate

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Ann develops patent strategies that protect business-critical innovations, leveraging deep engineering expertise to translate complex technologies into robust IP portfolios.

Ann's patent practice spans cutting-edge technologies including wireless communications, AI applications, cloud computing systems, and biomedical devices. Her ability to seamlessly bridge the technical and business worlds for clients ranging from high-growth startups to multinational corporations is beneficial to clients.

Drawing on her advanced degrees in aerospace engineering, plus research engineer experience at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Space Systems/Loral, Ann brings deep technical knowledge. Her academic experience teaching applied mathematics enhances her ability to understand and synthesize complex concepts—valuable when collaborating with inventors and in-house technical teams, crafting persuasive patent applications, and communicating with USPTO examiners.

Before joining Holland & Hart, Ann practiced as a patent attorney at Setter Roche Smith & Shellenberger LLP in Denver. Before attending law school, she worked as a research engineer at Space Systems/Loral and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and was an Instructor in the Department of Applied Mathematics at the University of Colorado.

PRACTICES

Intellectual Property
Patent Preparation, Prosecution, and
Counseling

INDUSTRIES

Aerospace and Defense

EDUCATION

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law,
J.D., 2021

University of Colorado, M.S., Aerospace
Engineering Sciences

University of Michigan, M.S.,
Engineering, Aerospace

University of Michigan, B.S., Engineering

BAR ADMISSIONS

United States Patent and Trademark
Office
Colorado

EXPERIENCE

Technologies

- Wireless communications (5G, LTE, non-terrestrial networks)
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning applications
- Cloud computing and storage systems
- Biomedical imaging, diagnostics, and treatment systems
- Industrial automation and control systems
- Virtual, augmented, and extended reality
- Weather and atmospheric detection systems
- Satellite and UAV navigation systems

Patent Preparation and Prosecution

- Domestic and international patent preparation and prosecution
- Patent portfolio development and management

- USPTO correspondence and examination strategy

Opinions and Counseling

- Strategic IP counseling and portfolio management

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- Colorado Bar Association, Member