

William "Bill" LaFuze is a principal in McKool Smith's Houston and Washington, D.C. offices. Bill's practice has been directed to a broad range of intellectual property law issues, with a particular focus on patent and other intellectual property litigation and arbitrations in the oilfield equipment, telecommunications, smartphone, computer, electronics, medical devices, and internet-related fields. He has represented clients in many district courts throughout the United States and in cases appealed to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington D.C. Bill has also served as arbitrator in many intellectual property cases, both domestic and international, and also has substantial experience in IP strategic counseling and licensing.

Bill currently serves as an officer of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Intellectual Property Law and is a delegate from that section to the ABA House of Delegates. Over the years, he has led many national and regional professional associations, including serving as the president of the American Intellectual Property Law Association and chair of the Section on Intellectual Property Law of the ABA. He has testified several times in hearings before Congressional Committees and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with regard to patent law reform issues.

Bill was selected as one of only two IP lawyers in the country to advise the Bush/Cheney administration through its Presidential Transition Team to counsel the then-new administration on patent policy, the operation of the USPTO, and patent reform issues. By appointment of the U. S. Secretary of Commerce, he later served on the Patent Public Advisory Committee of the USPTO.

Bill has been ranked every year since inception as a "Band 1" intellectual property lawyer or "Senior Statesmen in Texas" by *Chambers USA* and has been ranked "Band 2" for U.S. intellectual property by *Chambers Global*. He is also highly rated in many other leading legal peer review publications and directories.

Education

J.D., University of Texas School of Law, 1973

M.S., Applied Science (Systems Engineering), Southern Methodist University, 1971

B.S., with highest honors, Physics, University of Texas, 1969

- *Phi Beta Kappa*

Harvard Law School *Course in Dispute Resolution, Negotiation and Arbitration-2009*

Court Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Claims
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Bar Associations

- Texas
- District of Columbia

Rankings & Honors

- Recognized in *Chambers USA* as a Senior Statesman for intellectual property litigation. The 2018 edition notes that he is "*engaging, professional and committed.*"
- Ranked in the *Best Lawyers in America* as a leading lawyer in Patent Litigation
- Recognized in the U.S. Legal 500 as a leading lawyer in patent litigation, 2009-2017. The 2017 edition describes Bill as the "dean of the Texas IP bar."
- Recognized as a leading U.S. patent litigator in *World Intellectual Property Review's* (WIPR) directory of "World IP Leaders,"
- Ranked a "Top 100 Super Lawyer" in *Houston by Texas Monthly*
- Listed in the *Legal Media Group's Expert Guide to the Leading Patent Practitioners*
- Listed in the Legal Media Group's *Expert Guide to the World's Leading Patent Experts*
- Recognized as a *Super Lawyer* in Texas,
- Ranked in *Chambers Global* as a leading lawyer for Intellectual Property – Patent Litigation (Band 2),
- Received Gold Star ranking for Texas Patent Litigation by *IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Practitioners*
- Recognized as an "IP Star" by *Managing IP*

- Member of Swarthmore's *Who's Who*
- Recognized in the guide to *The Best Lawyers in America*® for intellectual property law
- Recognized in *The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers*
- Recognized in *Who's Who in American Law; Who's Who Legal* (for Texas patent law)

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