

TC 3600 & TC 3700 Customer Partnership Meeting

Clara Barton Auditorium – November 13, 2024

How to be a Better Partner: Towards Better Examiner-Practitioner
Interactions for High Quality Patents

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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



TC 3600 & TC 3700 Customer Partnership Meeting

Agenda

- 8:30 a.m. Coffee and light breakfast**
- 8:45 a.m. Opening Remarks and Welcome**
- Kathi Vidal** Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
(via recorded video)
- Alexander Beck** Director, Technology Center 3700
- John Fristoe** Director, Technology Center 3600
- 9:15 a.m. Artificial Intelligence - Subject Matter Eligibility Under 35 § U.S.C. 101**
- Brannon Smith** Legal Advisor, USPTO (Material & Training for 2024 AI Subject Matter Eligibility Update)
- Frank Gerratana** Member, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
- 10:15 a.m. Break**
- 10:30 a.m. Update on USPTO Artificial Intelligence-Based Search Capabilities**
- Jonathan Horner** Supervisory Patent IT Specialist, USPTO
- 11:00 a.m. Panel: Drafting Better Quality Specifications – Avoiding 35 § U.S.C. 112 Issues**
- Moderator: **Joanne Parrill** Sr. IP Counsel, ZOLL Medical Corporation
- Panelists: **Joseph Rocca** Training Quality Assurance Specialist, TC 3600
- Carl Layno** USPTO Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC 3700
- Steve Saunders** Partner, Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP
- Julia Mathis** Sr. IP Counsel, Hologic Inc.
- Christina McDonough** Principal, Fish & Richardson P.C.
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch**

- 1:00 p.m. Fireside chat with Commissioner Vaishali Udupa**
Host: **Lisa Adams** Member, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
- 2:00 p.m. Recent Court Decisions**
Fahd Patel Associate Solicitor, USPTO
- 2:45 p.m. Break**
- 3:00 p.m. Panel: Examiner Interviews – How to have collaborative interviews**
Moderator: **Alex Roan** Associate, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
Panelists: **Tara Schimpf** USPTO Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC 3600
Steve McAllister USPTO Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC 3700
Robert Skrivanek Partner, Lando & Anastasi, LLP
Mitch Weinstein Partner, Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC
- 4 p.m. Industry presentation: Stanley Black & Decker**
Mark Schildkraut Chief IP Counsel, Stanley Black & Decker
Mike Varipatis Chief Engineer – Battery Pack
Bhanu Gorti Vice President, Electrification & Advanced Technology
- 4:45 p.m. Closing remarks & Adjourn**

Biographies

Kathi Vidal

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

As the chief executive of the USPTO, Kathi Vidal leads one of the largest intellectual property (IP) offices in the world, with more than 13,000 public servants and an annual budget of more than \$4 billion. She is the principal IP advisor to the President and the Administration, through the Secretary of Commerce, and is focused on incentivizing and protecting U.S. innovation, entrepreneurship, and creativity. Vidal was named to Forbes' 50 over 50 in the innovation category in 2024 for her work bringing more underrepresented inventors and entrepreneurs into the innovation ecosystem, and as one of Managing IP's top 50 most influential people in IP in 2022. She leads an agency whose mission is to help American workers and businesses compete and collaborate, especially in ground-breaking technologies and across all demographics. As Director of the USPTO, Vidal is working to expand American innovation for and from all, and to bring more ideas to impact, including serving as the Vice Chair of the [Council for Inclusive Innovation](#) (CI²), alongside Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo and the Council members, a Co-Chair of the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NACIE), and the Co-Founder, with the Secretary, of the [Women's Entrepreneurship \(WE\) initiative](#).

Director Vidal grew up in a career military family and spent her childhood on military bases in the United States, Panama, Germany, and the Azorean Islands (Portugal). She learned the value of hard work, financial security, and education from her parents, who often held multiple jobs and attended classes at night and on weekends to earn their bachelor's and master's degrees.

Her interest in science led her to attend Binghamton University at the age of 16, where she received her bachelor's in electrical engineering. Before graduating, she started her career at General Electric (GE) Aerospace (later Lockheed Martin). She was selected into the Edison Engineering Program and pursued her master's in electrical engineering in Syracuse University's night program. During her time at GE, she designed one of the first artificial intelligence systems for aircraft, as well as aircraft and engine-control systems that continue to keep our military safe today.

Recognizing the value of innovation, Director Vidal pursued a career in IP. She put herself through law school and obtained a Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania, where she was Editor-in-Chief of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review. After clerking for Judge Alvin Anthony Schall on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, Director Vidal joined Fish & Richardson P.C., where she became a recognized expert on IP law, led a litigation group of 270 attorneys in 11 global offices, and served on the firm's Management Committee. She later joined Winston & Strawn LLP, where she served on the firm's Executive Committee and was Managing Partner of its Silicon Valley office. Throughout her career, Director Vidal has represented new innovators and startup companies with limited resources. She has also represented many of our country's most successful and well-known companies.

Director Vidal has helped harness and protect innovation at all levels. Prior to joining the USPTO, she represented both patent holders and defendants in U.S. district courts and the International Trade Commission. She has also been deeply involved in practice before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), argued numerous Federal Circuit appeals, and led amicus efforts on important cases before the Federal Circuit and the Supreme Court. She has received many awards as a top litigator and was inducted into the Litigation Counsel of America, a society of the leading American trial lawyers.

Director Vidal has spent her career championing the importance of mentoring and expanding opportunities to include more individuals from underserved communities. She has played an active role on the advisory board of Chiefs in Intellectual Property (ChIPs), a network of women leaders in technology, law, and policy, and on other boards and committees focused on diversity and inclusion, and has mentored diverse women across the globe as part of the Fortune-U.S. Department of State Global Women's Mentoring Partnership program. She builds on that work today.

Director Vidal lives with her family and rescue dogs Oliver and Jack.

Vaishali Udupa
Commissioner for Patents at the USPTO

As Commissioner for Patents, Vaishali Udupa manages and leads the Patents organization as its chief operating officer. Ms. Udupa oversees the agency's 10,000 Patents employees, including more than 9,000 patent examiners responsible for fostering the country's innovation system by providing patent protections to inventors as stated in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

Prior to joining the USPTO, Ms. Udupa was already a nationally recognized leader in intellectual property (IP), with over twenty years of experience in strategic IP advisement and complex litigation. She has a wealth of experience in patent prosecution and litigation, global IP policy, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. In the private sector, Ms. Udupa secured multiple IP trial wins and managed numerous IP cases to favorable resolutions in the United States and abroad. She assisted in the development of patent and trademark portfolios and counseled internal clients regarding licensing deals, asset acquisitions, and agreements involving IP rights. Her technological experience includes, among others, electronic devices, networking and telecommunication systems, computer software, electronic commerce, consumer products, sporting goods, and medical devices.

Throughout her career, Ms. Udupa has achieved a proven track record of addressing diversity issues in the science, technology, and legal professions. She has sought to promote diversity and inclusion through pro-bono work and bar association involvement, including by serving as Honor Roll Committee Co-Chair of CHIPs, a non-profit organization that advances and connects women in technology, law, and policy; volunteering with the Girl Scouts Nation's Capital to provide young girls with their inventor patch; and teaching basic IP topics to Washington, D.C., high schoolers through the Street Law Program. Her efforts have received accolades, including the National Bar Association's 2020 Diversity in Tech and IP Law award. She also maintains a keen interest in increasing entrepreneurship and the number of patents applied for and obtained by all inventors, including women, minorities, veterans, and those from rural and economically disadvantaged areas.

Prior to joining the USPTO, Ms. Udupa was the Vice President, Associate General Counsel for Litigation at Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE). Prior to HPE, she was an IP litigation manager at HP and an associate at Jones Day and Pennie & Edmonds. Ms. Udupa earned her Juris Doctor from American University's Washington College of Law and her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia.

John Fristoe
Technology Center (TC) Group Director, TC 3600

John Kramer Fristoe Jr. serves as a Technology Center Group Director of TC 3600, and provides oversight in examination areas such as land vehicles, article handling, and oil wells and drilling. John joined the USPTO in 2002. As an examiner and supervisor, he worked in the fluid handling art in TC 3700 and later managed other art areas such as turbines, containers, and luggage also in TC 3700. More recently, Mr. Fristoe served as a TC Operations Manager in TC 3700, assisting the TC Directors in the day-day management activities and direction of the TC, and also as Acting Director of TC 3700. John proudly holds a B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech.

Alexander Beck
Technology Center (TC) Group Director, TC 3700

Alexander Beck is a Group Director in Technology Center (TC) 3700 and provides oversight in the examination areas of thermal and combustion technology, motive and fluid power systems, and fluid handling and dispensing. Mr. Beck also provides oversight of the TC's quality assurance division.

Mr. Beck previously served as chief of staff to the commissioner for patents and as senior advisor to the deputy commissioner for patent examination policy. He joined the USPTO as a patent examiner in the area of selective visual display systems and later became a supervisory patent examiner in the same field.

Mr. Beck received a B.S. in electrical engineering, cum laude, from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and a J.D. from The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law. He is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

Brannon Smith
Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration (OPLA)

Brannon Smith joined the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in 2007 as a Patent Examiner in the database technology area of TC 2100. In 2016, he became a Training Quality Assurance Specialist (TQAS) in TC 2100, and in 2021 he joined OPLA as a Legal Advisor.

Brannon has been involved in the development of materials and training concerning subject matter eligibility since 2015. He helped to draft the 2024 Guidance Update on Patent Subject Matter Eligibility, Including Artificial Intelligence, and was responsible for creating and presenting the materials used to train examiners on the new examples.

Prior to working for the USPTO, he was a programmer in the private sector, and wrote software for 3D bathymetric applications as well as defense. Brannon has a BS in Computer Engineering and a PhD in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Frank Gerratana
Member, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo, P.C.

Frank partners with innovators to develop and execute smart patent strategies that help them compete in global markets. His clients include growing, dynamic companies pioneering next-generation electrical and computer technologies including cryptocurrency and blockchain systems, artificial intelligence, machine learning, cloud computing, autonomous vehicles, and medical devices.

Recognized as one of the World's Leading IP Strategists by Intellectual Asset Management magazine, Frank often works hand in hand with clients to build their companies' portfolios from the ground up. Although his clients include companies of all sizes, his practice focuses in particular on start-ups and mid-market companies whose patent portfolio is core to the value of their business. Frank's keen technical skills allow him to collaborate closely with clients to identify the best opportunities for protecting their technology using a patent strategy carefully tailored to their goals. He has handled portfolios ranging from several to hundreds of patents and brings an exceptional understanding of the complexities of global patentability — including jurisdictional differences in patent law — to his work managing international filings and coordinating claim development to ensure global enforceability.

Prior to joining Mintz, Frank was a partner with a global intellectual property firm in Boston. Earlier he started his own web hosting company, DGN Enterprises, and worked in software engineering at a Boston-area start-up.

In addition, Frank has an active pro bono practice, and has worked extensively with the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts and many other nonprofit organizations.

Jonathan Horner
Supervisory Patent IT Specialist, USPTO

Jonathan Horner currently serves as a Supervisory Patent Information Technology Specialist with the Office of Patent Automation. He began his USPTO career as a patent examiner in physics before moving over to the IT space working directly with AI and emerging technologies. He has managed various patent AI programs such as the PE2E Search integration. He currently sits on a number of USPTO and inter-agency AI teams acts as a subject matter expert in the field. In his spare time, he works on pinball and arcade machines as well as restores old electronics.

Joanne Parrill
Senior IP Counsel at ZOLL Medical, Corp

Joanne Parrill is a Senior IP Counsel at ZOLL Medical, Corp. based in Chelmsford, MA. Joanne manages IP portfolios for neural stimulation devices to treat sleep apnea, and for a suite of emergency medical services software products. The IP portfolios include patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets. In this role, Joanne provides counsel for IP strategy and portfolio growth. Joanne is also the chairperson of the trade secret governance committee at ZOLL and prosecutes patents for a variety of ZOLL resuscitation devices.

Prior to joining ZOLL, Joanne worked as a patent prosecutor at a boutique intellectual property law firm and, in a previous life, worked as an IBM process engineer. Joanne has a J.D. from University of New Hampshire School of Law with a concentration in Intellectual Property Law, a Ph.D. from Northwestern University in Materials Science and Engineering, and a B.S. from Cornell University, also in Materials Science and Engineering.

Joseph Rocca**Training Quality Assurance Specialist (TQAS), TC 3600**

Joseph Rocca received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and Physics from Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY and graduated with a J.D. from Albany Law School in Albany, NY. He subsequently joined the United States Patent and Trademark Office in August 2006 examining applications in the land and motor vehicles art area. He served as the SPE of Art Unit 3611 from 2013-2020. He also has served as a Patent Attorney at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences and has received the Bronze Medal and Exceptional Career Achievement Award. Joe has been a Training Quality Assurance Specialist (TQAS) with TC 3600 since 2020.

Carl Layno
Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE), TC 3700

Carl Layno is currently a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) in TC 3700. Carl received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Virginia and a M.S. in Electrical Engineering from George Washington University. Prior to joining the U.S. Patent Office, he worked for 10 years as an Electrical Engineer for the defense contractor E-Systems. He started his career at the United States Patent & Trademark Office as an examiner in 1995 reviewing medical devices in Classes 600, 607 and 128. He became a Primary Examiner in 2000, and eventually became a SPE in 2008. His name appears on US Patent 8,000,000. He is currently assigned to Art Unit 3796 (Electrical Stimulation Devices and Surgery – Diagnostic Testing).

Steven Saunders
Partner, Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP

Steven G. Saunders is a partner and chair of Nutter's Intellectual Property Department. Clients of all sizes, from emerging companies to multinational corporations, rely on Steven's counsel for managing all of their intellectual property needs, including IP portfolio development, strategy and evaluation, patent preparation and prosecution, product clearance, inter partes reviews (IPRs), litigation management, reexamination, and licensing. Drawing on his experience as both IP counsel and angel investor, Steven also conducts due diligence analysis in preparation of angel or venture capital investments, mergers, or acquisitions.

As a high tech patent lawyer, Steven frequently handles complex investigations on behalf of clients, which ultimately demonstrate that their products do not infringe on third-party patents, or that the third-party patents are invalid. In addition, he often helps clients in designing around third-party patents.

Drawing on his scientific background, Steven focuses his practice across a wide range of technologies. An active participant in the angel investor community, Steven hears dozens of presentations from early stage entrepreneurs annually as a member of both Hub Angels Investment Group and Launchpad Ventures. Steven also has been an advisory board member of numerous start-up companies, where he provided counsel on management strategy and assisted in raising capital from other angel investors and venture capitalists.

A leader in the legal industry, Steven has been involved in numerous professional organizations and activities. Prior to joining Nutter, Steven was a partner at a New England-based intellectual property law firm.

Julia Mathis
Senior IP Counsel at Hologic

Julia Mathis is Sr. IP Counsel at Hologic, a women's health company, where she is responsible for IP support for the Breast and Skeletal Health Division. As part of this role, Julia provides general IP counseling, advises her clients on IP strategy, builds and manages her business unit's domestic and international patent portfolio, and handles IP aspects of technology licensing agreements and other contracts.

Prior to joining Hologic, Julia was Senior IP counsel at Philips Lighting, now Signify. Julia began her legal career at Lando & Anastasi. She graduated from the UNH School of Law and has a BS in Electrical Engineering from SUNY Binghamton.

Christina McDonough
Principal, Fish & Richardson P.C.

Christina McDonough's clients range from small start-ups to large companies and academic institutions. Her practice focuses on patent prosecution, portfolio management, reexamination, counseling, and due diligence in the computer software and electrical fields.

Christina has particular expertise in the areas of digital therapeutics, bioinformatics and medical systems (e.g., telehealth, medical registries, readmission reductions, modeling and predictive analysis of biological data, genetic codes, and immunotherapy response), computational fluid dynamics (e.g., simulation of acoustic and fluid flow properties), complex data processing (e.g., big data and complex events), financial algorithms (e.g., predictive modeling and forecasting of real-time security trades), and semiconductor and acoustical device fabrication (e.g., via Micro-electrical-mechanical systems [MEMS] fabrication techniques).

Christina regularly performs due diligence regarding potential acquisition of various patents, fully vetting the strengths and weaknesses of a company's portfolio and exposing issues from offensive and defensive angles. She also regularly provides intellectual property strategic analysis by assessing the feasibility of entering various business verticals and sectors. Her work includes high-level landscape analyses that provide an executive overview of patent holdings by identified companies in a particular vertical. Christina's practice also includes providing qualitative summaries of IP portfolios of identified companies. These summaries consist of assessments of strengths, weaknesses, and business and IP implications for the client, in addition to assessment of future work to be performed to enable protection.

Prior to focusing her practice on patent prosecution, Christina worked as a litigator at Fish & Richardson. As a litigator, she was part of a team that tried a five-patent semiconductor test equipment case before the U.S. International Trade Commission. The technology at issue related to semiconductor test equipment manufactured using MEMs. A victory on behalf of respondent client was obtained — invalidating one patent and establishing non-infringement for the remaining asserted patents (*In the Matter of Certain Probe Card Assemblies, Components Thereof and Certain Tested DRAM and NAND Flash Memory Devices, Ct Intl Trade*).

Christina has extensive industry experience, having worked in financial compliance with Goldman Sachs, as a voice engineer with Cisco Systems and Empirix (originally, the software division of Teradyne), and in development at Raytheon, CMGI, and the startup iConverse.com.

Lisa Adams
Member, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.

Lisa is an esteemed intellectual property attorney whose practice encompasses all areas of intellectual property. She advises clients on a wide range of IP matters including strategic patent portfolio development, clearance to market analyses, acquisitions, diligence, and post-grant proceedings at the US Patent and Trademark Office. Start-ups to Fortune 500 companies in the medical technology, life sciences, energy and sustainability, manufacturing, and technology sectors rely on her counsel. She is known as a skilled strategist who becomes deeply familiar with her clients' businesses and goals.

Lisa is an experienced patent and trademark attorney known for her forthrightness and strategic approach. She and her team help clients protect their innovations in medical technology and life sciences, robotics, mechanical products and processes, chemical and materials science, electrochemistry, injection molding equipment and tooling, and multi-layer technology. Named among the Top 250 Women in IP by Managing Intellectual Property, Lisa's clients include start-ups as well as large companies.

Lisa represents clients in patent prosecution and strategy, including patentability evaluations, the preparation and prosecution of patent applications, and post-grant proceedings. Clients value her unique approach to strategic portfolio development, including portfolio mapping. She advises clients on freedom to operate, performing clearance studies and conducting due diligence. Lisa is the go-to attorney for freedom to operate opinions for one of her Fortune 500 clients.

She approaches all aspects of her practice with an emphasis on strategy and client communication. Her clients can expect deep knowledge of the company targets and goals, as well as directness as to whether or not new products can be used in the marketplace or would risk being challenged. In addition, Lisa communicates regularly with her clients, so that all parties involved can stay up to date on industry news and potential competitors.

Lisa is active in the patent bar community, serving as the former President of the Boston Patent Law Association (BPLA), currently serving as the Medical Devices committee chair, and serving as a Co-Chair of the Mechanical Practice Committee of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA). Lisa is also involved in various pro bono projects, working with the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts and the United Way, for which she previously served as the Vice Chair of the Women's Initiative Education branch. Each year Lisa hosts a volunteer day at Cradles to Crayons on behalf of the Women's Initiative of the AIPLA.

Fahd Patel
Associate Solicitor, USPTO

Fahd H. Patel joined the USPTO's Solicitor's Office in 2024 after 15 years as an attorney in private practice. His current responsibilities include (1) defending Agency decisions at the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, (2) defending the Agency in district court litigation, and (3) providing advice to the Agency on policy issues related to artificial intelligence. He specializes in procedural issues in AIA trials, 101, 112, and obviousness. Before joining the Solicitor's Office, Fahd worked at Morrison & Foerster, where he focused on IP litigation and AIA trials. He previously worked at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP, where his practice included both patent litigation and prosecution. Before private practice, Fahd was an examiner in Technology Center 2100. He holds a B.S. in Computer Engineering, with honor, from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Alex Roan
Associate, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.

Alex assists life science and technology companies of all sizes with a wide variety of domestic and foreign intellectual property matters. Alex's practice includes the preparation and prosecution of patent applications as well as strategic patent counseling in the form of invalidity and infringement analyses, product clearance studies, and due diligence investigations. He also has experience with trademark registration, post-grant proceedings, and patent litigation, including before the US International Trade Commission. Alex's experience covers a wide range of technologies, including medical devices, secondary batteries, fuel cells, solar panels, consumer products, manufacturing equipment, software, and electronics.

Before joining Mintz, Alex was an associate in the Boston office of an international law firm. In that role, he handled patent and trademark prosecution, litigation, and patent office matters related to medical devices and complex technologies, including laser-driven light sources, wireless cameras, automated validation software, and machine vision systems.

Alex's law school program included an IP concentration with a focus on patent law. While attending Suffolk University Law School's evening program, he was a software quality engineer and documentation specialist with Fresenius Medical Care, where he worked on software development and FDA compliance and enforcement matters. While pursuing his MS in Mechanical Engineering, he researched electrochemical methods for environmentally-friendly metal production and developed expertise in secondary battery and fuel cell technologies in addition to materials science.

Tara Schimpf
Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC 3600

Tara Schimpf is currently a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) in TC 3600. Tara received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Notre Dame. Prior to working at the USPTO, she was a Field Engineer and later a Service Coordinator for the Central Division for Schlumberger Oilfield Services. Tara joined the USPTO in 2014 as a patent examiner in the wellbore drilling workgroup. During her time at the USPTO, Tara earned her J.D. and graduated cum laude from American University Washington College of Law. She also served as a TC 3600 Training Quality Assurance Specialist (TQAS) detailee and Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) detailee. Since 2023, Tara has served as SPE in the wellbore drilling group (Art Unit 3676).

Steve McAllister
Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC 3700

Steve McAllister is a Supervisory Patent Examiner and an Interview Specialist in TC 3700. He is one of the leaders of a team of Patent Examiners in the areas of Ventilation, Boilers, Drying, Combustion, Stoves and Furnaces, Industrial Furnaces, and Heating Systems. He also provides assistance to stakeholders in Interview policy and procedure.

Prior to joining TC 3700 as a SPE, he was a SPE Trainer in the Patent Training Academy, a Primary Examiner in Business Methods in Tech Center 2100, and an examiner in the mechanical field in TC 3600.

Mr. McAllister earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University.

Robert Skrivanek
Partner, Lando & Anastasi, LLP

Bob is a successful patent prosecutor with experience in all aspects of intellectual property, with an emphasis on patent prosecution and strategic IP counseling. He represents clients of all sizes, from startups to multibillion-dollar multinational corporations, and helps them develop, protect, and leverage their intellectual property rights in the U.S. and abroad, primarily in Europe, China, Japan, Taiwan and South Korea. Bob has expertise in all phases of patent prosecution, including appeal, oral argument, inter partes and ex parte re-examination, reissue, and post-grant opposition. He has been involved in many due diligence investigations and has authored numerous patentability, non-infringement, invalidity, and freedom to operate opinions.

Bob's strategic approach to patent prosecution has led several clients into major acquisition deals. Bob brings nearly a decade of technical experience as a design engineer to his clients, offering a practical and knowledgeable perspective on complex electronic systems patents. His hardware experience includes the specification, design, simulation, test, certification, and qualification of microprocessor-based printer controllers, DRAM memory options, communication interfaces, hard disk modules, and multi-protocol network interface modules. His software experience includes programming in PostScript and C, writing firmware verification test suites, and writing driver files to support various network operating systems.

Mitch Weinstein
Partner, Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC

Mitch's passion is helping clients carve out and protect niches for their innovations moving to market. Through strategic planning in patents, trademarks and trade secrets, Mitch partners with clients to identify and work around potential barriers to market entry and to secure protection for their intellectual property assets.

As a partner in the firm's Intellectual Property Group, Mitch prepares and prosecutes U.S. and foreign patent and trademark applications, with a focus on achieving his clients' goals. He has extensive experience in patentability and infringement analyses and opinions, patent and trademark licensing, and client counseling relating to retaining and transferring intellectual property rights. Mitch has extensive experience in international patent strategies, filings and prosecution. He has assisted clients in introducing new products and services to their respective marketplaces in the U.S. and abroad through strategic counseling, state-of-the-art searching, design around strategies and opinions. Recently, he assisted clients in carrying out worldwide patent programs spanning the Americas, Europe and Asia.

Mitch's technical acumen spans a wide variety of industries, including industrial and food packaging including packaging system and processes, paper and polymer-based materials and closures. He also works with clients in construction materials including heavy equipment, tools, consumables, chemicals, and cable and wire systems, electrical, mechanical and electro-mechanical printing and marking systems, protective and lighting systems, adhesive application systems, molding systems, industrial chemical compositions including adhesives, lubricants and masking agents, chemical process systems, medical products and devices, textiles, automotive products, sporting goods, entertainment and novelty devices, piping and structural attachments, and radioactive and other chemical processes.

Prior to his legal career, Mitch was a licensed professional engineer and an engineering manager with a large, multinational engineering consulting firm specializing in piping system flow analyses, piping system failure prediction, and radioactive waste processing and disposal.

Mitch has been quoted on various Intellectual Property Issues in numerous publications such as: IP Law 360, Bloomberg News, and The Deal. Mitch often speaks on new and relevant IP topics at industry and legal conferences. Mitch is a member of numerous international, national and local IP organizations and is an active member in areas including patents, designs and law school outreach.

In 2014 Mitch received AIPLA's Mentor of the Year award and continues to mentor young lawyers and law students to provide them with an understanding of expectations as IP practitioners. Mitch was a member of the 1992 Giles Rich National Moot Court Championship team.

In 1994, Mitch was admitted to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark office. Mitch continues to mentor law students to provide them with an understanding of expectations as IP practitioners.

Stanley Black & Decker Presenters

Mark Schildkraut
Vice President, Chief Intellectual Property Counsel

Mike Varipatis
Chief Engineer – Battery Pack

Bhanu Gorti
Vice President, Electrification and Advanced Technology

