

The IP Beacon[®]

THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW NEWSLETTER
OF HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP

MARCH 2026

RECENT RECOGNITIONS

Haynes Boone Earns Record 15 Lawyer and 6 Practice Rankings in Chambers Global 2026

The Chambers Global guide of leading international lawyers featured 15 Haynes Boone lawyers in its 2026 edition. Our Trademark, Copyright and Trade Secrets Practice Group debuted in the rankings this year, alongside [David McCombs](#), who received an individual ranking in Patent Practice (US).

[Read more.](#)

Haynes Boone Maintains Gold Firm Status in WTR 1000 for 17th Straight Year

World Trademark Review has again ranked [Haynes Boone's Trademark and Advertising Practice Group](#) among the nation's top 12 "Gold-tiered" firms in its 2026 edition of the *WTR 1000*. This is the 17th consecutive year that Haynes Boone is ranked among the nation's best. 10 Haynes Boone attorneys were recognized, including [Purvi Patel Albers](#), [Jeffrey Becker](#), [David Bell](#), [Jason Bloom](#), [Tiffany Ferris](#), [Erin Hennessy](#), [Michael McArthur](#), [William Nash](#), [Ken Parker](#) and [Rich Rochford](#).

[Read more.](#)

13 Haynes Boone Lawyers Named Thought Leaders by Lexology Index

Lexology Index recognized 13 Haynes Boone attorneys as USA Thought Leaders in its 2026 report, with 19 attorneys recommended in their respective areas as well. Notably, [Purvi Patel Albers](#), [Erin Hennessy](#) and [David McCombs](#) were listed as leaders in their field.

[Read more.](#)

Haynes Boone Federal Circuit Practice Ranked 2nd of 1,000-Plus Firms in Patexia Report

Patexia's 2025 CAFC Intelligence Report ranked [Haynes Boone's Federal Circuit Appellate Practice Group](#) second among more than 1,000 firms appearing before the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, based on case volume and success rate. The practice also ranked eighth overall by total matters handled for both appellants and appellees. Individually, [Debbie McComas](#) ranked first overall in appellant performance and [Angela Oliver](#) ranked fourth among attorneys appearing before the court.

[Read more.](#)



Federal Circuit Limits IPR Estoppel for Ongoing Reexaminations



David L. McCombs
Partner



Jonathan R. Bowser
Partner

In *Westlaw Today*, David McCombs and Jonathan Bowser analyze a recent Federal Circuit decision addressing the scope of estoppel arising from *inter partes* review (IPR) proceedings before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB). The authors discuss when IPR estoppel attaches and how the ruling affects ongoing reexamination proceedings, offering guidance for litigants evaluating post-grant challenges as part of their patent defense strategy.

[Read more.](#)

Traditional Copyright Decisions of 2025 That Should Be on Your Radar



Jason Bloom
Partner



Michael Lambert
Accosiate

In an article for *IPWatchdog*, Jason Bloom and Michael Lambert review several significant traditional copyright decisions issued in 2025 and their practical implications for copyright owners, digital platforms, and media companies.

[Read more.](#)

Key Strategies to Consider With New USPTO Fast-Track Examination Pilot



Jeffrey Morton, Ph.D.
Partner



Kalyani Joshi
Accosiate

In an article for *IAM*, Jeff Morton and Kalyani Joshi examine the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Streamlined Claim Set Pilot Program, a new initiative designed to accelerate examination through the first office action for patent applications with streamlined claim sets.

[Read more.](#)



USPTO Director Establishes Strict Real Party-In-Interest Requirement for IPRs



David L. McCombs
Partner



Jonathan R. Bowser
Partner

In *Westlaw Today*, David McCombs and Jonathan Bowser look into the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's restoration of a strict real party-in-interest (RPI) requirement for inter partes review petitions before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. The article examines the USPTO director's decision to designate *Corning Optical RF, LLC v. PPC Broadband Inc.* as precedential, requiring petitioners to identify all RPIs before a petition may be considered.

The authors also address national security concerns cited by the USPTO, including the risk that opaque ownership structures could enable foreign state-linked entities to challenge U.S. patents in strategic technology sectors, and outline the implications for PTAB petition strategy and RPI disclosure.

[Read more.](#)

Understanding *Google v. Sonos* and Its Patent Prosecution Implications



Jeffrey Wolfson
Partner



Brett Bostrom
Counsel



Dirk Bernhardt
Associate

In an article for *IPWatchdog*, Partner Jeffrey Wolfson and Associates Dirk Bernhardt and Brett Bostrom interpret the Federal Circuit's decision in *Google LLC v. Sonos, Inc.*, which addresses the doctrine of prosecution laches. They explain that while prosecution laches remains a viable equitable defense, the ruling narrows its application by emphasizing the requirement that an accused infringer demonstrate prejudice caused by prosecution delay.

[Read more.](#)

IN THE NEWS

Haynes Boone Assists in Securing Patent for Water Filtration System in Continued Work for The Pennington School

A team of Haynes Boone attorneys, led by Counsel [Sharon Crane](#) and Partner [Vera Suarez](#), assisted students from The Pennington School's Applied Science program in obtaining a United States design patent for a student-developed water filtration system known locally as the "Better Kitchen Sink." The patent, granted on Feb. 24, 2026, protects the ornamental design of the filtration system, which was created to help address water scarcity challenges in Malawi.



Haynes Boone Secures Federal Circuit Affirmance for Unified Patents in PTAB Invalidation Appeals

Haynes Boone represented Unified Patents in a significant patent appeal victory before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, which affirmed a Patent Trial and Appeal Board decision invalidating the majority of challenged claims in a VideoLabs Collective patent.

Haynes Boone Opens Boston Office, Expanding Northeast Footprint

Haynes Boone has opened its 20th office with the launch of a Boston location at One Financial Center. The Boston office reflects Haynes Boone's strategic growth into key markets, positioning the firm to serve New England's dynamic technology, healthcare, investment management, finance, and other growth sectors.

PODCAST



PODWalk with Radhika Zaveri: Protecting Creative Assets Through Branding

Featured Guest: [Purvi Patel Albers](#)



VPG's Virtual Water Cooler Chat Podcast – Empowering Voices: Women in AI with Dina Blikshteyn

Featured Guest: [Dina Blikshteyn](#)

Haynes and Boone, LLP is an international corporate law firm with a cross-disciplinary team of over 750 lawyers providing a full spectrum of legal services to clients across the nation and around the world.

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