

## Vera Suarez in Bloomberg Law: ‘Aspiring Women Inventors Still Stalled by University Patriarchy’

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**PRACTICES** Intellectual Property, Patents

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Haynes Boone Partner [Vera Suarez](#) was quoted in an article in *Bloomberg Law* authored by Lauren Castle discussing the challenges that women still face on the path to inventorship in academic settings.

Read an excerpt below:

Vera L. Suarez, a patent attorney and partner at Haynes Boone, said she has no doubt from her experience that a gender disparity persists among inventors, patent agents, and attorneys. Bridging that gap is not just a matter of finding a new generation of female inventors, but convincing female inventors that not every patent has to be a groundbreaking invention.

Suarez, who focuses her work on design patents, said sometimes clients don't realize that patents can be a small improvement and not an industry disruptor.

"I think women are innovating, maybe they are not aware that their contribution is patent-eligible," Suarez said, who formerly worked as a field engineer before pursuing law.

The USPTO announced in November that it's creating a new design patent bar, with expanded admission criteria for attorneys. Suarez said this move could open the doors to more women seeking to practice intellectual property without having a hard-science background.

To read the full article in *Bloomberg Law*, [click here](#).