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Areas of Practice

- Copyright
- Intellectual Property
- IP Due Diligence
- IP Licensing
- IP Litigation
- Patent
- Patent Counseling,
Clearance, & Prosecution
- Patent Litigation
- Patent: Electronics &
Software
- Patent: Medical Devices
- Trademark
- Trademark Litigation

Education

Southwestern University
School of Law, J.D., 1991,
Dean's List, American
Jurisprudence Award for
Corporations, Reiss
Scholarship for Academic
Excellence, University
Scholarship for Academic
Excellence

University of California -
Los Angeles, B.A., 1986,
Chancellor's Scholarship

Robert L. Kovelman

Robert L. Kovelman is a partner in the Century City office of Steptoe & Johnson LLP, where he is a member of the Intellectual Property group. Mr. Kovelman's practice concentrates on domestic and foreign intellectual property issues, including prosecution, litigation, and transactional issues.

Mr. Kovelman's primary experience is in the Internet, multimedia, and computer technologies, but he has also obtained valuable experience in the electrical, mechanical and biomedical arts. In this regard, Mr. Kovelman counsels clients in all aspects of patent law, trademark law, copyright law, trade secret law, and other technology-related matters.

Mr. Kovelman has substantial experience in drafting and negotiating technology agreements and licenses, and he advises clients as to both offensive and defensive strategies relating to their intellectual property portfolios. In addition, Mr. Kovelman has extensive experience in preparing non-infringement, validity and right to use opinions, and he has been involved with several patent, trademark and trade secret litigations.

Mr. Kovelman also is a frequent guest lecturer at the University of Southern California where he teaches a graduate course in the Department of Engineering entitled Strategic Management of Technology. Moreover, Mr. Kovelman frequently lectures to client groups regarding the fundamentals of intellectual property to explain what is intellectual property, how it is protected, and how it is used to provide a competitive business advantage.

Noteworthy

- *Martindale-Hubbell Top Rated Lawyer*, Intellectual Property Law, 2012
- *Daily Journal's Top 25 Intellectual Property Portfolio Managers and Patent Prosecutors in California*, 2011-2012
- *Southern California Super Lawyers*, Intellectual Property, 2005-2010
- Pacific Multiple Sclerosis Research Foundation - Certificate of Merit, 1987

Representative Matters

- *Sample Digital v. Pix System, LLC* (C.D. Cal. 2011) - Represented Sample Digital in a patent infringement action against Pix System, LLC relating to media content collaboration throughout the production process.

Robert L. Kovelman

Bar & Court Admissions

California

US Court of Appeals,
Ninth Circuit

US Court of Appeals,
Federal Circuit

US District Courts in
California; Central,
Northern, & Southern
Districts

US Patent and Trademark
Office

- *Monster Cable Products, Inc v. Rockford Corp.* (N.D. Cal. 2010) - Represented Rockford Corp. in a trademark and copyright infringement action relating to speaker wire components. Successfully negotiated full resolution early in proceedings.
- *IGT v. Bally Technologies* (D. Nev. 2008) - Represented Bally Technologies, Inc. as opinion counsel in a major victory with IGT, when the Federal Circuit affirmed a summary judgment ruling that IGT's "Wheel of Fortune" patents were invalid and not infringed by any Bally slot machine products.
- *IGT & Action Gaming vs. Alliance Gaming, Inc.* (Fed. Cir. Nev.) - Represented Alliance Gaming, Inc. in a patent infringement litigation relating to methods for playing Poker; including testifying as opinion counsel.
- *Transtector Systems, Inc. vs. A.C. Data Corporation* (Fed. Cir. Idaho) - Represented Transtector Systems, Inc. in a patent infringement litigation relating to a power surge suppression technology.

Select Seminars & Events

Panelist, "Patently Offguard: Taking Potential Bankruptcy Ramifications Into Account In Intellectual Property Matters", April 30, 2009, (*A Steptoe-Sponsored Event*)

Moderator, "Culture Clash: IP Protection v. Free Access Debate" at State Bar of California IP Section's Intellectual Property in Entertainment & Media, June 25, 2008

Panelist: Due Diligence In Mergers and Acquisitions - Maximizing the Odds of Success, sponsored by The Wall Street Transcript., *Panel - Intellectual Property Concerns.*

Moderator: Intellectual Property Conference - Maximizing Returns on your Intellectual Property Portfolio, sponsored by The Wall Street Transcript, July 2005., *Panel - Identifying The Right IP Strategy For Your Business*

Selected Publications

Intellectual Property Advisory: Effective Timeline for the America Invents Act
November 4, 2011

Patent Law Creates a First-to-Disclose System
September 27, 2011, *Daily Journal*

Robert L. Kovelman

Patent Bill: Only Time Will Tell If Congress Got It Right
September 9, 2011, *Daily Journal*

America Invents Act Revamps US Patent Law
September 1, 2011

Doing Business in the United States
July 14, 2011, *Practical Law Company Cross-Border Doing Business in... Handbook*

Professional Affiliations

State Bar of California, Patent Standing Committee