Specializing exclusively in intellectual property, we bring together technical and legal expertise in our commitment to provide quality legal representation.
As one of the top U.S. intellectual property law firms, we represent clients from every major nation in the world, across a broad range of interests and disciplines. With a variety of technical degrees and backgrounds, our attorneys are particularly qualified to solve your technology-related problems. We provide the resources to help you build a comprehensive intellectual property portfolio in a manner that is both timely and cost-effective.

At Staas & Halsey LLP, we tailor our representation to fit each client’s needs. We strive to provide technical understanding and legal solutions that are creative and within the budget of each client. We accomplish this goal through our commitment to provide outstanding service, open communication, and a quick response for each client.

Staas & Halsey LLP has provided clients with intellectual property protection and technical expertise since 1971.
Developing a comprehensive intellectual property portfolio is essential to successfully maintaining a company's competitive position within the global marketplace. We monitor and evaluate the competition, as well as identify relevant technology trends, in order to provide each client with the necessary information to enhance its position.

In the complex arena of patent rights, Staas & Halsey LLP has served many of the world's most dynamic corporations. We carefully and expertly guide clients through the patenting process—from the initial conception of an invention and the assessment of patentability to securing strong and effective patent rights, all within budget.
WE TAILOR OUR **REPRESENTATION** TO FIT OUR **CLIENTS’ NEEDS**.

We offer our commitment to provide the best service, most open communication and quickest response, while keeping in mind our clients’ specific budget needs.
Of course, a company’s intellectual property portfolio extends beyond patents. In the marketplace, reputation and source are symbolized by trade names, trademarks, service marks, and trade-dress. Copyrights are also vital to the protection of corporate technology, particularly for computer software and the performing arts. At Staas & Halsey LLP, we have vast resources, creative ideas and broad experience to secure protection for all aspects of our clients’ intellectual property.

In today’s fast-paced and increasingly technological world, more and more companies are finding the need to license manufacturing know-how, trade secrets, and patents. These functions are critical to outsourcing, franchising, and venture capital financing, as well as aiding in assessing mergers and acquisitions. Through careful coordination with our client’s management team, we aid in objectively evaluating intellectual property, and we structure licenses to avoid pitfalls and achieve the most cost beneficial business results.
WE ACHIEVE
OUR CLIENTS’ GOALS
THROUGH COLLABORATION.

At Staas & Halsey LLP, we have vast resources, creative ideas and broad experience to secure protection for all aspects of our clients’ intellectual property.
When business controversies arise, we work to understand the human side of the dispute in order to reach an amicable conclusion. We promote and encourage a frank assessment of the cost/benefit trade-offs associated with settlement while examining all of the alternatives. If litigation is inevitable, we act aggressively to achieve our clients’ objectives.

Our number one priority is customer service, and our attorneys work to establish strong relationships with all of our clients. We believe that successful business relationships are built on trust, which we generate by developing creative solutions that meet clients’ needs. We encourage an open exchange about our professional services fees and your ability to pay them promptly.
OUR SUCCESS is the result of YOUR PROSPERITY.

We believe that successful business relationships are built on trust, which we generate by developing creative solutions that meet clients’ needs.
Located in the heart of Washington, D.C. between the U.S. Capitol and the White House, Staas & Halsey LLP has convenient access to the nation’s most important legal and government resources. The firm is in close proximity to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the Office of the Registrar of Copyrights, and the Library of Congress, as well as within walking distance of the Department of Commerce and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

The Staas & Halsey LLP office is just steps away from the Metro Center subway station at the intersection of the Orange, Blue and Red lines. Fine restaurants and hotels are within an easy walk, and the area’s three major airports are easily accessible via car or public transportation.
David M. Pitcher was born in Ithaca, New York. He received an engineering degree from the University of Michigan before he earned his law degree from Syracuse University. In 1971 he was admitted to membership in the Bar of the State of New York and to the Bar of the District of Columbia in 1975.

While earning his law degree, Mr. Pitcher worked as a manufacturing engineer with Xerox Corporation in Rochester, New York. Mr. Pitcher began his legal career in the patent department of Xerox Corporation. He then served as a commissioned officer of the U.S. Navy as an attorney in the Judge Advocate General Corps in Washington. During that time, he practiced law in the Navy Litigation Division and the Federal Economic Stabilization Program for wage and price controls. He also served as a military aide to the President of the United States.

Mr. Pitcher is active in counseling clients on all types of intellectual property matters, including patent and trademark procurement and protection strategies, budgeting, and enforcement. He is also involved in particular with rendering product clearance, patent validity and patent infringement opinions, and is active in assisting clients in all types of dispute matters involving patents, trademarks, trade secrets, copyrights and technology contracts. Mr. Pitcher is also actively involved in the protection of corporate intellectual property rights through contractual agreements, including company employee and technology disclosure agreements, technology exchange contracts, and licensing and product distribution agreements. Mr. Pitcher has acquired extensive experience in the preparation and prosecution of patent applications. He possesses broad expertise in a number of technical areas, including manufacturing, mechanical, electromechanical, electrical, material science, and computer software subjects.


He is admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, certain of the federal district and appellate courts in the United States, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Mr. Pitcher holds memberships in the American Intellectual Property Law Association, the International Trademark Association, the Licensing Executive Society, the Federal Bar Association, the International Trade Commission Trial Lawyers Association, and the International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property. He is a member of the New York Bar Association, the Patent, Trademark and Copyright Divisions of the District of Columbia Bar and the Bar Association of the District of Columbia.
JOHN C. GARVEY

John C. Garvey is a partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Staas & Halsey LLP. Mr. Garvey has worked extensively in the area of intellectual property client counseling. He has conducted infringement and validity studies in a wide variety of technologies, including voice messaging equipment, cellular telephone technology, facsimile equipment, modems, fiber optic devices, semiconductors, and photographic equipment. Mr. Garvey has experience in negotiating patent, trademark and copyright licensing, settlement agreements, and product distribution agreements. He also has experience in proceedings before the International Trade Commission and the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences and in litigation in the U.S. Federal Courts with respect to a variety of technologies, including cellular telephones, voice messaging equipment, fiber optics devices, printers, and mail opening equipment. Mr. Garvey has acquired broad experience in preparing and prosecuting patent applications in a wide variety of technical areas, including communication systems, computers, high definition television, electronic circuits, semiconductors, numerically controlled machines, mechanical systems, photographic equipment, and optical devices.

Mr. Garvey has been a speaker at the District of Columbia Bar Association and at a seminar for members of Japanese companies stationed in Washington on the issue of patent infringement in the United States. He has also presented a seminar in Japan on the topic of multimedia. In addition, Mr. Garvey has given presentations at a number of companies in Japan on a variety of U.S. patent issues, such as infringement, and has also been a guest speaker before the Canadian Bar Association on the topic of U.S. Patent Litigation. Mr. Garvey is the author of "Overview of an Infringement Analysis," Intellectual Property Management, Vol. 46, No. 8, August 1996 and "Recent Trends in the Patentability of Computer Related Inventions: Is a Method of Doing Business Patentable?" International Legal Strategy, Vol. V-11, November 1996.

Mr. Garvey has an electrical engineering degree (B.S.) from Duke University and a law degree (J.D.) from George Washington University. He is admitted to the bar of the District of Columbia. He is also admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the federal district and appellate courts of the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In addition to being a member of the American Bar Association, Mr. Garvey also holds memberships in a number of other groups, including the District of Columbia Bar Association, the Federal Circuit Bar Association, the American Intellectual Property Law Association.
J. RANDALL BECKERS

James Randall Beckers is a partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm Staas & Halsey LLP. His legal expertise is greatly enhanced by his professional experience as a computer scientist and communications engineer obtained while working for an engineering services and communications subsidiary of an electric utility holding company. During his legal career, Mr. Beckers has worked extensively in the preparation and prosecution of patent applications, patentability, infringement and validity opinions, right-to-use and product clearance opinions, licenses, and intellectual property counseling relating to all phases of advanced electronics, bioelectronics, neural networks, computer hardware, software, computer languages, artificial intelligence, expert systems, business models and methods, e-commerce, and WWW based transaction systems. His experience in IPO due diligence reviews includes Internet auto and medical products. Mr. Beckers’ licensing experience relates to cryptographic systems, electromagnetic machines, voice mail systems, waste processing control, and e-commerce. He is also experienced in copyright and trade secret protection of computer software.

Mr. Beckers has litigation experience in both bench and jury patent infringement trials in technology related to voice mail systems, electronic measurement systems, and product identification systems. He has experience appealing U.S. Patent and Trademark Office decisions to both Federal District Courts and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Mr. Beckers also has several years of experience in proceedings before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, including the reported decision of In re Van Geuns, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1291 (Fed. Cir. 1991).


Mr. Beckers has conducted client engineer seminars on patent application preparation and prosecution and related legal issues. He has been a speaker on the topic of creative approaches to protecting computer software and trends in software protection, on intellectual property protection of high technology, and on protecting multi-media systems and software. He has also been a guest lecturer at law schools, colleges, and universities.

Mr. Beckers received an electrical engineering degree (B.S.) from Auburn University, a computer and information science degree (M.S.) from the University of Alabama - Birmingham, and a law degree (J.D.) from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. He holds memberships in the District of Columbia Bar Association, the Alabama State Bar Association, and the American Intellectual Property Law Association.
William F. Herbert was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Mr. Herbert studied biology, chemistry and physiological psychology at Boston College where he graduated Cum Laude. He received his law degree from the Catholic University of America, where he was a staff member of the Catholic University Law Review. He was admitted to membership in the Bar of the State of Massachusetts in 1981, and the Bar of the District of Columbia in 1984. He also is admitted to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Herbert is engaged in the preparation and prosecution of U.S. and foreign patent applications in the mechanical, biotechnology, chemical, design and plant areas. Mr. Herbert’s practice is also very actively engaged in unfair competition and trademark matters, including trademark prosecution, oppositions, cancellations and related litigation. His experience also covers various copyright and international trade matters.


Mr. Herbert was the Moderator at the District of Columbia Bar Association 1996 Annual Convention seminar entitled “Multi-media and the Law: What You Don’t Know Could Hurt You!”, has been the sole speaker at the D.C. Bar’s 1996-2002 and the Massachusetts Bar’s 2001 seminars entitled “Preparing a Trademark Registrability and Use Opinion”, and was a contributing speaker at the D.C. Bar’s December 1998-2001 CLE programs entitled “Developments in Intellectual Property Law”. Mr. Herbert also spoke in February 2002 to the U.S. Government Intellectual Property Law Association Conference on the topic of “Unauthorized Use of Marks on the Internet”. Mr. Herbert also spoke at the July 2003 Law Seminars International Trademark Transactions and Litigation Workshop, and was the Co-Chair of the July 2004 work shop entitled “Trademark Portfolio Acquisition & Protection Workshop”.

Mr. Herbert is the recipient of the District of Columbia Bar Association’s Intellectual Property Section Distinguished Service Award (2004).


Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory Rating: AV Preeminent
Richard A. Gollhofer is a partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Staas & Halsey LLP. He primarily is responsible for obtaining intellectual property protection in many fields using computer hardware and software, including preparing and prosecuting patent applications and evaluating patents for computer systems, process control systems, optical imaging systems, and communication systems such as transmission systems, mobile telecommunications, and local area, wide area, and global computer networks and their use in e-commerce. Mr. Gollhofer previously worked as a programmer/systems analyst for the Chicago Bureau of Engineering.

Mr. Gollhofer has a computer science degree (B.S.) from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and a law degree (J.D.) from the Illinois Institute of Technology/Chicago-Kent College of Law. He is admitted to the Illinois Bar and the District of Columbia Bar. Mr. Gollhofer is a member of the engineering and mathematics honor societies Tau Beta Pi and Pi Mu Epsilon. He also holds memberships in the American Bar Association, the American Intellectual Property Law Association, the Computer and Telecommunications Law Section of the District of Columbia Bar, IEEE and the Association for Computing Machinery.

Mr. Gollhofer’s interests include outdoor activities, such as cross-country skiing and bicycle commuting, and watching a variety of sports, including football, both American and international (soccer).
Mark J. Henry is a partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Staas & Halsey LLP. He is actively involved in protecting clients’ intellectual property rights through patents, trademarks, trade secrets and copyrights. His work in patent procurement has been in a wide range of technical arts, including semiconductor device electronics, organic and inorganic chemistry, wireless communication, polymer processing, optical communication, and telecommunication. Mr. Henry counsels clients on overall intellectual property strategy related to patent and trademark protection, procurement, validity and enforcement issues, and licensing. He has conducted complex infringement and validity studies and used these studies in licensing and settlement negotiations and to counsel clients during litigation.


While earning his law degree, Mr. Henry had an internship with Westinghouse Electric Corp., writing patent disclosures on nuclear and other energy technology applications. He also had an internship with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office examining patent applications in the field of adhesive materials and various chemical manufacture.

Mr. Henry has a chemical engineering degree (B.S.) from the Pennsylvania State University. His academic course work included polymer processing, materials science, and semiconductor theory. Mr. Henry attended law school at Widener University and Catholic University, receiving his law degree (J.D.). He also has an electrical engineering degree (M.S.) from the George Washington University, with a concentration in the areas of microelectronics and telecommunications. Mr. Henry is admitted to the bars of the District of Columbia, Virginia, and New Jersey and to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Mr. Henry holds memberships in the American Intellectual Property Law Association, the Patent and Trademark Office Society, and the American Chemical Society. He is also eligible for Professional Engineering Certification.

Mr. Henry enjoys scuba diving and light beer, but not at the same time.
PAUL I. KRAVETZ

Paul I. Kravetz is a partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Staas & Halsey LLP. He has experience in searching, preparing, and prosecuting patent applications in many areas of electrical and computer engineering, including fiber optics, optical communication systems, wireless communication systems, computer hardware and computer software-related inventions (including e-commerce and business models), and analog and digital circuitry. Mr. Kravetz also has significant experience preparing patent opinions regarding infringement and validity matters. In addition, Mr. Kravetz has experience handling reissues and reexaminations in the USPTO.

Upon receiving his electrical engineering degree, Mr. Kravetz worked for a company that designed and manufactured computer systems. He was responsible for negotiating complex purchase and service agreements for large-scale computer systems. After graduation from law school, Mr. Kravetz worked as a patent attorney for the United States Department of the Navy, where he was primarily responsible for performing patent searches, preparing patent applications, and patent prosecution.


Mr. Kravetz has an electrical engineering degree (B.S.) from the University of Iowa and a law degree (J.D.) from DePaul University in Chicago. He is admitted to the Bar of Illinois, the Bar of the District of Columbia, and to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Mr. Kravetz is a member of the American Intellectual Property Law Association.
Gene M. Garner II is a partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Staas & Halsey LLP. He is experienced in virtually all aspects of patent preparation and prosecution in the electrical arts, computer arts, and mechanical arts.

More particularly, Mr. Garner has prepared and/or prosecuted patent applications in computer hardware and software, electronic commerce, networking and telecommunications, computer graphics, medical equipment, data storage, semiconductors and testing equipment, and home appliances. In addition, he has prepared and presented patentability, validity, and infringement studies in the electrical and mechanical arts.

Prior to practicing law, Mr. Garner was a design and development engineer experienced in semiconductors, telecommunications, software, and computer systems.

In addition to his law degree from the University of Maryland, Mr. Garner holds Master’s degrees in both electrical engineering from Cornell University and Biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University. He also has an electrical engineering degree (B.S.) from the University of Maryland.

Mr. Garner is admitted to the Bars of Maryland and the District of Columbia, as well as to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and holds memberships in various professional organizations. Mr. Garner’s hobbies include travel and sports.
Stephen T. Boughner is a partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Staas & Halsey LLP. He joined the firm in August of 1999, after practicing as a Patent Examiner at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). He has substantial experience in both preparing and prosecuting patent applications, as well as in post issuance activities and evaluations, including reissue, reexamination, patentability, validity/non-validity, and infringement/non-infringement prosecution and evaluation involving a broad range of technologies and legal issues. He also has prepared and conducted numerous seminars, both with focused presentations and general IP overviews. The seminars have been presented in Staas & Halsey’s Washington D.C. office, as well as internationally on client campuses.

Mr. Boughner has worked within a wide variety of technology fields, from primarily mechanical technologies, to electronic and electromechanical technologies, to primarily mathematical or computational intensive technologies, from small to large devices and systems. These fields have included at least home and office appliance arts; storage or media standardization, reproduction, and control; telecommunication components, systems, and processes, video hardware display devices and standardized audio and video technologies; more recent multi-dimensional video, display, and processes and corresponding encoding/decoding devices, systems, and processes, as well many other visual and audio related devices, systems, and processes. While at the USPTO, Mr. Boughner focused primarily on the display arts and video processing, which included television and other display technologies, hardware, software, and encoding/decoding methodologies, optical systems and processing, and video projection systems, including LCD and PDP technologies. During his studies in electrical engineering, Mr. Boughner’s academic emphasis was on the areas of analog and digital communication, analog and digital controls, and software-based system simulation, as well as other electrical technologies.

Mr. Boughner received an electrical engineering degree (B.S.) from the University of Akron and a law degree (J.D.) from Akron University School of Law. He has been admitted to practice in California, New York, and Ohio, and is currently active in California and New York. He is similarly registered to practice before the USPTO. Mr. Boughner holds memberships in the Licensing Executives Society (LES), Intellectual Property Owner Association (IPO), the Intellectual Property Section of the American Bar Association, and the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), California Bar IP Law Section, and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Outside of work, Mr. Boughner is interested in athletic activities, including swimming and biking, and he recently began kayaking. He also has an interest in wine and reading for pleasure.

*Limited to matters and proceedings before federal courts and agencies, including the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
MEHDI D. SHEIKERZ

Mehdi Sheikerz is a partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Staas & Halsey LLP. He focuses on and has extensive experience in preparing and prosecuting patent applications relating to computer software in the U.S. and internationally. Mr. Sheikerz handles post-patent-grant proceedings, including reexamination and reissues of patents, and handles appealing decisions of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on patent applications to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. He conducts presentations on patenting for clients. Mr. Sheikerz also gives advice to small to mid-sized businesses on establishing in-house intellectual property programs.

Mr. Sheikerz also has experience in the software industry. Before attending law school, he was a software programmer for over 4 years. Mr. Sheikerz developed telecommunication messaging system software for Computer Sciences Corporation in northern Virginia and worked for a number of small business software consulting companies, including as a Lotus Notes consultant. During law school, Mr. Sheikerz held a legal externship with the in-house legal department of CSC Intelicom, a Computer Sciences Corporation company in Bethesda, Maryland.

Mr. Sheikerz has a computer science degree (B.S.) from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), a law degree (J.D.) from the University of New Hampshire School of Law, Franklin Pierce Center for Intellectual Property, and an intellectual property degree (M.S.) from the University of New Hampshire School of Law, Franklin Pierce Center for Intellectual Property.

Mr. Sheikerz is admitted to practice in the state of Florida and in Washington, District of Columbia (D.C.), and before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Mr. Sheikerz holds memberships in the Florida and D.C. Bars and in the American Intellectual Property Law Association.

Mr. Sheikerz enjoys off-road bicycling, skiing, and Hokie sports.
Temnit Afework has an information systems science and computer science degree (B.S.) and an administration of justice: judicial administration degree (B.A.) from Salve Regina University, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. She has a law degree (J.D.) from the George Washington University law school. Ms. Afework is admitted to practice before the District of Columbia Bar and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. She holds memberships in numerous professional organizations, including the American Bar Association, the American Intellectual Property Law Association, the District of Columbia Bar Association, and is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

Ms. Afework enjoys taking photography classes and participating in charity races. She also enjoys riding her bike to work when possible.
PAUL F. DAEBELER

Paul F. Daebeler is a partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Staas & Halsey LLP and adjunct intellectual property law professor at Handong International Law School of Handong Global University. For over 20 years, he has procured patents worldwide, conducted due diligence investigations for product clearance, prepared legal opinions, negotiated technology agreements, and developed and implemented intellectual property strategies for multinational corporations and entrepreneurial businesses. Mr. Daebeler offers a valuable combination of corporate and private practice experience, which enables him to conduct comprehensive intellectual property audits for formulation of intellectual property strategies to capture, manage, and enforce the intellectual property assets of various startup and institutional clients. In addition, Mr. Daebeler has integrally participated in the enforcement of intellectual property rights before the International Trade Commission and Federal District Courts. For example, Mr. Daebeler represented a major wireless communications equipment provider and intervenor in an infringement action concerning wireless local area network technology. In re Certain Wireless Local Area Network Cards, ITC Investigation No. 337-TA-455

Mr. Daebeler was a corporate patent attorney for Xerox Corporation. While at Xerox, he had primary responsibility for the intellectual property counseling of the Xerox sales force and the business division responsible for delivering global document solutions to customers. These duties included formulating, communicating, and implementing Xerox’s intellectual property strategy throughout these divisions.

Mr. Daebeler has provided comprehensive intellectual property counseling for entrepreneurial and established global clients conducting research or business in a wide array of technologies including: business methods, computer software, digital imaging, virtual machines, Internet networking, electrical circuits, optical electronics, electronic medical devices, microprocessor system design, numerical control devices, robotics, semiconductor manufacturing, very large scale integrated circuits, audio and video processing including MPEG technology, telecommunications, wireless technology (TDMA, CDMA, GSM, and IEEE 802.11), surgical devices, oil exploration, steel manufacturing, home appliances, and xerography.

Mr. Daebeler has organized and moderated continuing legal education seminars on intellectual property, including "Intellectual Property for the General Practitioner and Corporate Counsel." He has also presented intellectual property seminars to intellectual property departments for multinational corporations in the United States and Asia and teaches intellectual property law to law students at Handong International Law School of Handong Global University. He has also presented seminars on "Managing Your Intellectual Property" to the business community.

Mr. Daebeler has an electrical engineering degree (B.S.) from Lehigh University and a law degree (J.D.) from Widener University School of Law. Mr. Daebeler is admitted to the bars of the District of Columbia, Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. He is also admitted to practice before the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Daebeler served on the Board of the Rochester Intellectual Property Association from 1999-2001 and is a member of the American Intellectual Property Association.
Gregory W. Harper is a partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Staas & Halsey LLP. Mr. Harper studied marine engineering with a concentration in nuclear engineering at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy where he graduated Cum Laude. He received his law degree from American University, where he was a staff member on the International Law Review. He is admitted to the New York State Bar and the District of Columbia Bar. He is also admitted to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Mr. Harper is engaged in the preparation and prosecution of patent application in the electrical, mechanical and electromechanical areas. His practice is also engaged in licensing and post grant proceedings including reexamination.

Prior to becoming an attorney, Mr. Harper worked as an engineer at a naval architecture firm, as an engineering officer aboard merchant vessels and, during law school, as a patent agent, while also serving in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1997-2002. Mr. Harper lives in Washington D.C. with his wife and three children.
THOMAS E. MCKIERMAN

Thomas McKiernan is a partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Staas & Halsey LLP. His areas of expertise include the procurement of patents related to mechanical and electrical devices, software, and business methods, drafting patent opinions related to validity and infringement, and designing around valid patents.

Mr. McKiernan served as a Patent Examiner in the United States Patent and Trademark Office. His responsibilities included the examination of applications pertaining to equalization, phase and delay locking, spread spectrum transmitters and receivers, and error and noise correction. Mr. McKiernan also worked as a Project Engineer at General Motors Corporation for almost 15 years. His responsibilities included math-based structural and vibration analysis of automotive components.

Mr. McKiernan has a mechanical engineering degree (B.S.) from General Motors Institute in Flint, Michigan, a business administration degree (M.B.A.) from the University of Michigan in Flint, Michigan, an electrical engineering degree (M.S.) from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and a law degree (J.D.) from the University of Detroit School of Law. He is admitted to the bars of Michigan and the District of Columbia and is also admitted to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Mr. McKiernan is a registered Professional Engineer, and he holds memberships in the American Intellectual Property Law Association and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Mr. McKiernan enjoys reading, distance running, and home maintenance. He is currently looking for an old car to restore.
AARON C. WALKER

Aaron C. Walker is a partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Staas & Halsey LLP. Prior to joining the firm, he worked as an attorney for an intellectual property law firm in Arlington, Virginia, where he specialized in the preparation and prosecution of patent applications in the electrical and electromechanical arts, along with business method and computer hardware applications.

Mr. Walker has a general engineering degree (B.S.) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he was a member of Gamma Epsilon, the Engineering Honor Society for the Department of General Engineering. He also has a law degree (J.D.) from the William H. Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, where he received top grade honors in Trial Advocacy and was awarded the International Academy of Trial Lawyers Student Advocacy Award. Mr. Walker completed his third year of law school at the George Mason School of Law, where he completed a series of patent classes, including patent prosecution, patent application writing, patent infringement, chemical and biological patent practice, patent interference practice, and patent licensing. Mr. Walker is admitted to practice in Virginia and before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and he is a member of the Virginia State Bar.
David J. Cutitta is a partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Staas & Halsey LLP. His practice includes all aspects of intellectual property law with a focus on patent law.

His patent experience includes preparation and procurement of patents, rendering opinions concerning validity of patents and patent infringement, prosecution of reissue applications, and negotiation of licensing agreements. His experience includes prosecution of electro-optical systems, 3-D rendering systems, video and audio encoding devices, encryption and data security systems, biomedical devices, holographic technology, software/business methods, and telecommunications systems.

Mr. Cutitta’s trademark experience includes performing searches and providing clearance opinions, prosecuting U.S. trademark applications, representing clients in opposition proceedings, and negotiating licensing and settlement agreements.

His copyright experience includes drafting copyright and fair use policies, work for hire agreements, and a variety of other agreements dealing with copyright-related issues.

Mr. Cutitta previously worked as an associate in the technology and intellectual property group of Nixon Peabody, LLP. He also acted as in-house counsel for a professional services firm providing commercialization assistance to advanced technology companies. During law school, he was a judicial intern for the Honorable James F. Stiven, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of California. Prior to practicing law, Mr. Cutitta gained experience in the telecommunications industry while working as an engineer and consultant for various companies including Harris Corp. of Melbourne, Florida, Datron World Communications Inc. of Vista, California, and Westinghouse Electric Inc. of Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Cutitta has an electrical engineering degree (B.S.) from Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York, where he graduated with distinction. He also earned an M.B.A. from the University of Rochester, and a law degree (J.D.) from California Western School of Law in San Diego, California. Mr. Cutitta is admitted to practice in New York, California, the District of Columbia and before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. He is a member of the District of Columbia and New York State Bar Associations, the State Bar of California, the Licensing Executive Society, the International Trademark Association, and in the America Intellectual Property Law Association.