



Ryan K. Simmons

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Professional Experience

Ryan's practice covers a broad spectrum of intellectual property ("IP") matters, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets. He is a registered patent attorney with extensive experience in creating, filing, and prosecuting patent applications across a wide range of technologies, such as general mechanical, container and packaging, juvenile products, outdoor/hunting and fishing equipment, electronics, medical/dental devices, biomechanical, appliances, and computer hardware and software technologies. He also has significant experience with the Patent Cooperation Treaty and assisting clients with protecting their IP internationally.

Additionally, Ryan offers guidance and negotiates IP matters related to licensing, non-disclosure agreements, IP due-diligence, and IP-related terms and conditions for various types of agreements, such as joint development, manufacturing, service, and sales agreements.

Ryan has a wealth of experience in assisting entities of varying sizes, from Fortune 100 to start-up companies, in strategically capturing and protecting their IP in the U.S. and internationally. He has further provided clients with counsel on the strategic planning, development, and management of their intellectual property portfolios.

Practice Concentrations

Patent Preparation and Prosecution (U.S. and Foreign)

Intellectual Property Assessment, Counseling, and Portfolio Management

Business and Intellectual Property Transactions

Intellectual Property and Technology Licensing and Transfer

Education

J.D., Florida Coastal School of Law, 1999

B.S., Utah State University, 1995

Admitted to Practice

North Carolina, 2010

Vermont, 2006

Florida, 2000

United States Patent and Trademark Office, 2000

All state courts in North Carolina

All state courts in Florida

All state courts in Vermont

Honors and Distinctions*

"Trade Mark Star and Patent Star," IP Stars from *Managing IP*, 2022-2023

"Legal Elite," *Business North Carolina*, Intellectual Property, 2023

"The Best Lawyers in America," Best Lawyers[®], 2021-2023



Representative Experience

Ryan's representative experience includes:

Assisting a biotech start-up company in developing and protecting their patent portfolio to position them for a \$90 million+ acquisition by one of the largest DNA sequencing companies in the U.S.

Counseling a container company in the strategic development of a large patent portfolio to protect their innovative product designs to gain a competitive advantage in a traditionally low IP business space

Advising a dental lab company in the strategic development of a patent portfolio to protect their innovative product designs and to gain independence from their reliance and cost of using certain third-party providers

Providing IP due diligence prior to the sale of business

Helping a company in the preparation of product clearance/non-infringement opinion, as well as product development, prior to launching of new products into a crowded consumer market space

Assisting a company in the development and filing of strategic patent applications prior to entering into a large government contract for military equipment

Guiding companies in the retail online, banking, and tech space in response to patent infringement assertions from non-practicing entities

Professional and Community Affiliations

American Bar Association—Section: Intellectual Property Law

American Intellectual Property Law Association

New Bern Area Chamber of Commerce (Leadership Craven Alumni Association; Leadership Craven Alumnus, Class of 2012)

North Carolina Bar Association—Section: Intellectual Property Law

** Please see the following websites for an explanation of the membership standards for the following recognitions: www.bestlawyers.com; businessnc.com/special-sections/legal-elite/; and www.superlawyers.com/north-carolina.*