

## Patents

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**Prosecution and Portfolio Maintenance** — Our attorneys assist clients in protecting their inventions and innovation in a broad range of technology fields. We have successfully secured patents in the fields of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, chemicals, medical devices, mechanics, electronics, computer- and software technology, and business methods. We also represent clients in obtaining design patents on unique product and packaging designs. Our clients rely on us to address routine prosecution and portfolio-management issues as well as more complex situations, such as navigating obstacles associated with complex licensing strategies.

**Enforcement and Defense** — We understand the importance of developing cost-effective strategies to police the marketplace for infringement and taking appropriate measures to enforce our clients' patent rights. We work with our clients to identify potential infringements and take the necessary measures to address infringing activity. While our preference is to seek amicable resolutions, we have all of the resources needed to manage litigation when it is necessary or is thrust upon our clients. We devise comprehensive protection and enforcement strategies for our clients and take proactive role in securing their interests at home and abroad. We have launched domestic patent re-examination procedures to protect our clients' intellectual property rights. Recently, we have invalidated a spurious design patent through a cancellation action in a foreign jurisdiction. Our clients also turn to us when they are alleged to be violating the patent rights of others. We regularly work with our clients to develop effective defense strategies to infringement claims. We always work with a focus on achieving the best resolution in the most cost-effective way and with the least disruption to our clients' businesses.

**Miscellaneous** — We routinely conduct due-diligence investigations in connection with our clients' investments in technology. IpHorgan clients regularly look to us when considering innovations and new inventions and the need arises to conduct a state-of-the-art analysis to determine what patents have issued in a particular field. We are skilled in assessing patent claim scope and advising clients on "design around" options to avoid conflicts.

### Our Patent Team

Michael L. Kenaga

Sean Swidler

Valerie Neymeyer-Tynkov

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**Michael L. Kenaga** is the Director of Patents. He is a registered patent attorney and his 20 years of patent experience include advising and counseling on patentability and other protection options including Trade Secret Law, providing infringement opinions, and preparing, filing and prosecuting domestic and foreign patent applications in the electrical and mechanical arts for large and mid-sized corporations. He has substantial experience in IP due diligence in connection with potential acquisitions of companies and his practice includes license-agreement work and litigation support. Michael is a regular speaker and lecturer on issues related to US and foreign patent practice. He is an electrical engineer by training (BSEE) and prior to law school worked for a telecom company and for a military and government contractor. Michael is a member of the Chicago Bar Association, Chair of the Intellectual Property Committee (2004-2005), The Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago, Past Treasurer (1997-1999), American Intellectual Property Law Association and the Licensing Executives Society.

**Sean Swidler** concentrates on U.S. and international Patent, Trademark, Trade Secret and Copyright matters including prosecution of applications and related litigation in the federal and state courts, and in administrative proceedings in the United States Patent and Trademark Office. He has prosecuted a broad range of patents, including those for medical, mechanical and electro-mechanical devices along with software and business methods inventions. Sean is experienced in all phases of patent and trademark litigation and has spent time litigating patent claims associated with generic drug applications and medical devices, as well as trademark matters. Sean also assists clients in advertising and promotions matters, including addressing fair use and comparative advertising issues and legal requirements for running sweepstakes and contests. He is admitted to practice in Illinois and before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. He earned his undergraduate degree in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Iowa and his J.D. from the Chicago-Kent College of Law and regularly guest-lectures at Columbia College in Chicago on a number of marketing and advertising topics.

**Valerie Neymeyer-Tynkov** focuses on drafting and prosecuting patents in the pharmaceutical, biotechnological, medical and chemical arts; preparing legal opinions; devising cost-saving strategies; and troubleshooting patent-related problems for clients. Her technical expertise includes over six years of bench experience in R&D and academic laboratories, including experience manufacturing product under cGMP protocols. Valerie obtained a J.D. with Honors from the Chicago-Kent College of Law, where she has since taught International Patent Law for several years as an Adjunct Professor of Law. Her educational background includes an M.S. in Pharmacology and a B.A. (with Honors) in Literature, Science and the Arts with a minor in Chemistry from the University of Iowa.