GODFREY KAHN



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Practice Areas

Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property Litigation

Admissions

Illinois

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Wisconsin

Education

Juris Doctor, University of Illinois – Chicago School of Law

Bachelors of Science, Marquette University, Electrical Engineering



Chris is a registered patent attorney and shareholder in Godfrey & Kahn's Intellectual Property (IP) practice.

Chris has a strong technical background and broad IP experience. He earned an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering and began his career in Silicon Valley in the late 1990s. There, he gained experience prosecuting patents in chip fabrication, MEMS devices, video compression technology, electrical and electronic circuits and systems, computer software, and medical devices and monitoring systems. After returning to the Midwest in 2004, Chris began representing universities, as well as clients abroad through his extensive network of foreign law firms.

Today, his practice focuses on patent and trademark prosecution, IP portfolio management, strategic counseling, trademark opposition and cancellation practice, and IP due diligence. Chris has prosecuted and managed U.S. and international patent applications in technologies including software, artificial intelligence (AI), electronics, medical devices, optical systems, and mechanical inventions. He also manages and advises on global trademark and design patent portfolios. Chris has also provided fractional in-house corporate counsel services to his clients.

Chris is an internationally recognized IP attorney, listed in the IAM1000 global patent rankings, the WTR1000 global trademark rankings, as well as in the global patent and trademark listings for IP STARS.

He is an active member of the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI), which is dedicated to the global development, improvement and harmonization of intellectual property. He serves on AIPPI's international Programme Committee and is a member of the AIPPI-US Steering Committee. Through AIPPI, he has built an overseas client base through his foreign IP counsel network, who also act as global partners to provide IP services in foreign jurisdictions for Godfrey & Kahn's domestic IP clients.

Chris is also an active member of the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM), which strives to move discoveries from university research laboratories to commercial partners capable of transforming those inventions into beneficial products and services. Chris regularly attends AUTM conferences to ensure that he is current on the issues affecting his university clients throughout the United States.

Chris earned his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Marquette University, and his J.D. from the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law.

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Honors

WTR 1000 Listing of International Trademark Professionals (2021 - present)

IAM 1000 Listing of International Patent Professionals (2019 - present)

American Bar Foundation Fellow

Lexology Client Choice Award for Patents in Wisconsin (2019)

Managing Intellectual PropertyTM IP Star (Patents and Trademarks) (2017 - present)

Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent ® Rated - Peer Review (2015 - present)

Activities

International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI)

- International Programme Committee (2022 present)
- Standing Committee on the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) (2018 2023)
- Secretary of Partial Designs Study Question at World Congress in Cancun (2018)
- Special Committee on Standards and Patents (2014 2018)

American Intellectual Property Law Association - AIPPI Division (AIPPI-US)

- Secretary/Treasurer (2022 present)
- U.S. Delegate to Cancun Congress (2018)
- National Steering Committee (2014-2025)
- U.S. Delegate to Buenos Aires ExCo & Forum (2009)

State Bar of Wisconsin IP and Technology Law Section

Board of Directors (2020-2023)

University of Illinois - Chicago School of Law

- Alumni Council (2021 2023)
- Dean's Alumni Council (2019 2021)
- Board of Visitors (2017 2019)

Wisconsin Intellectual Property Law Association (WIPLA)

President, Vice President and Programming Chair (2015 - 2018)

Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin (ASSEW)

 Member, Board of Directors; Chair, Nominating Committee; Vice President, Executive Committee; Co-Chair, Fund Development Committee (2012 - 2019)