



Christopher P. Lightner

Partner

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Related Services

Intellectual Property ■ Patent Prosecution, Counseling & Review ■ Mechanical Patents ■ Trademark & Copyright ■ Intellectual Property Licensing Transactions ■ IP & IT Audits and Due Diligence ■ International

Recognized by IAM Patent 1000 for his “impeccable attention to detail” and “commercially astute, value-added guidance,” Chris understands the complexities facing his clients, from Fortune 500 companies to startups. His thoughtful counsel, coupled with insight from his community leadership, make him a trusted adviser for strategic growth and enforcement of patent portfolios.

With a background in mechanical engineering and industry experience with aerospace systems integration projects, Chris Lightner practices in Alston & Bird’s Intellectual Property – Mechanical Patents Team. Chris focuses his practice on patent solicitation and counseling, as well as on IP-driven due diligence efforts, licensing agreements, confidentiality considerations, and patent brokerage agreements.

Chris prepares and prosecutes U.S. and foreign patent applications for wide-ranging technologies and partners with clients to develop targeted and cost-effective patent portfolio strategies. He regularly advises on patentability, freedom-to-operate, and enforceability considerations and studies and manages patent risks through in-depth analysis of product and process designs.

Chris has been recognized for his ongoing leadership efforts receiving the Georgia PATENTS Program’s Volunteer of the Year Award, the Atlanta Bar Association’s Celebrating Service Award, and the Intellectual Property Community Service Award, presented by Georgia State University and Georgia Tech. Chris has been named a “Georgia Rising Star” by *Super Lawyers*, recognized a leading patent professional in the annual *Intellectual Asset Management* “IAM Patent 1000,” and “IAM Strategy 300: The World’s Leading IP Strategists.” Chris is also regularly a speaker, panelist, and moderator at local and state bar association CLE events.

Chris is also active in leadership roles with the Atlanta Bar Association and is a member of the firm’s Sustainability and Hiring Committees.

Representative Experience

- Patent counsel for a national container products manufacturer and distributor.
- Patent counsel for a national medical and therapeutic device manufacturer and distributor.
- Patent counsel to a worldwide package delivery and logistics services company in package tracking, vehicle management, and logistical efficiency technology.

- Patent counsel to a leading advanced composites company that develops, manufactures, and markets lightweight, high-performance composites, including carbon fibers, reinforcements, prepregs, honeycomb, matrix systems, adhesives, and composite structures for use in commercial aerospace, space and defense, wind energy, and industrial applications.
- Counsel for patent clients in diverse areas of technology, including materials handling, computer software, industrial power transmission, solar energy collection and utilization technologies, paper and pulp technologies, financial securitization products, fraud prevention systems, and warranty models.

Publications & Presentations

Presentations

- “Giving Back to Atlanta: Pro Bono Partnerships,” Access Atlanta Bar: Summer Series, Atlanta, GA, July 23, 2020.
- “Inventor IP Roundtable,” Georgia Intellectual Property Alliance, Atlanta, GA, July 17, 2020.

Professional & Community Engagement

- Atlanta Bar Association, secretary; Side Bar Committee, chair
- Atlanta Bar Association IP Section SpringPosium, sponsorship co-chair
- Georgia Bar Association IP Section, Executive Committee, secretary
- Georgia Bar Association IP Section Patent Committee, chair
- Georgia PATENTS Pro Bono Program, advisory board
- Intellectual Property Owners Association, U.S. Patent Office Practice Committee
- Intellectual Property Owners Association, Patent Committee
- Technology Association of Georgia

Accolades

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Lawyer of the Year – Patent Law (2024)
- *Intellectual Asset Management*, “IAM Strategy 300: The World’s Leading IP Strategists” (2023)
- *Intellectual Asset Management*, “IAM Patent 1000” (2018–2023)
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Patent Pro Bono Achievement Certificate (2017–2021)
- Atlanta Bar Association, Pro Bono Award (2015, 2018)
- Georgia PATENTS, “Volunteer of the Year” (2015–2018)
- Georgia State University and Georgia Tech, Intellectual Property Community Service Award (2017)
- Atlanta Bar Association, “Celebrating Service Award” (2015)

Education

- The University of North Carolina (J.D., 2008)
- University of Phoenix (M.B.A., 2005)
- Tennessee Technological University (B.S.M.E., 2001)

Admitted to Practice

- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- Georgia