



Michael J. Hickey

Intellectual Property Practice Group Leader

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Michael Hickey helps inventors and companies protect and defend their innovations, combining deep litigation experience with a strong foundation in patent and intellectual property law across a wide range of technologies.

Michael serves as a Practice Group Leader for the Intellectual Property practice group. With more than two decades' experience, Michael focuses his practice on intellectual property litigation and prosecution, representing inventors and companies in diverse areas of technology including computers and telecommunications, medical devices, DNA and genomics research, chemical applications, and exercise equipment. His clients are individual inventors, startup companies, and significant market players including one of the largest bicycle component manufacturers in the world. His successes include winning summary judgment of patent non-infringement for a family-owned company where the opponent, a Fortune 100 company, sought more than \$80 million in damages from his client.

Michael's practice covers patent, trademark, and copyright prosecution as well as significant commercial litigation and appellate work. He clerked for the Hon. Theodore McMillian of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, and he has served as a professor of patent law for the Ongoing Examiner Education Program at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Michael presently serves on the Firm's Appellate Committee, and he previously served as a former Chair of the Firm's Recruiting Committee. He was selected for inclusion in *Missouri & Kansas Rising Stars*® 2010-2012 and *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers*® 2013-2025. Michael was also named by *Best Lawyers*® for 2019-2026. Additionally, *St. Louis Business Journal* listed him among their "40 Under 40" in 2011.

Education

- Harvard University School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 1999)
- Harvard University (M.P.P., 1999)
- Saint Louis University (B.S., *summa cum laude*, 1994)
 - Chemistry

Services

- Intellectual Property
- Information Technology
- Complex Litigation
- Appellate Litigation

Legal Background

- Professor of patent law, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office - Ongoing Examiner Education Program (July 2007-2011)
- Law clerk, Hon. Theodore McMillian, U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit (1999-2000)
- Paralegal, Neighborhood Legal Services, Buffalo, NY (1994-1995)

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP)

Admissions

- Registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- U.S. Supreme Court
- Seventh Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals
- Eighth Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals
- Federal Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals
- Eastern District of Missouri, U.S. District Court
- Northern District of Illinois, U.S. District Court
- Southern District of Illinois, U.S. District Court
- Missouri Bar
- Illinois Bar

Charitable & Civic Involvement

- Secretary and Officer, St. Louis Zoo Association (2021-present)
- Co-Chair, A Zoo Ado, St. Louis Zoo Association (2020)
- Co-Chair, Logistics Committee, Zoofari and A Zoo Ado, St. Louis Zoo (2009-present)
- President, Trailnet (2018-2019)
- Vice President, Harvard Club of St. Louis (2008-2012)

Special Honors

- *Patent Buddy*® 2011-2013 Top Patent Prosecutor

Firm Committees

- Member, Appellate Committee
- Former Chair, Recruiting Committee

Civic Leadership

Michael is an active member of the St. Louis community. Since 2009, he has served as the Co-Chair of the Logistics Committee for Zoofari and A Zoo Ado at the St. Louis Zoo. Prior to chairing St. Louis Zoo's Logistics Committee, Michael was the Vice President and Co-Chair of Jammin' at the Zoo, part of St. Louis Young Zoo Friends.

Michael is also a committed board member of Trailnet, an organization dedicated to creating positive change in the St. Louis region by promoting a healthy, active lifestyle. In collaboration with other board members, he strives to uphold Trailnet's mission through bicycle programs and education, transportation planning within municipalities, and Trailnet's Healthy and Active Communities initiative.

A proud Harvard alumnus, Michael served as Vice President of the Harvard Club of St. Louis from 2008 to 2012.

Publications

July 10, 2025

Generative AI Training and Fair Use: The Anthropropic and Meta Decisions

June 30, 2023

Proof Our Flag Is Still Here (But Only Here): U.S. Supreme Court Confirms Extraterritorial Limits on the Lanham Act

June 14, 2023

Bad Dog: Supreme Court Rules in Jack Daniel's Favor in Trademark Dispute

March 9, 2022

United States Patent and Trademark Office Severs Ties with Russian Patent Office

July 1, 2020

Supreme Court Rules That Potentially Generic Internet Domain Names May Nonetheless Be Entitled to Trademark Protection

April 29, 2020

Your U.S. Patent and Trademark Deadlines May Change Based on COVID-19

February 2019

"Mac" Attack: McDonald's Loses Its European "Big Mac" Trademark by Failing to Prove Actual Use

April 2018

Supreme Court Upholds IPR Constitutionality, Finds All Challenged Claims Must Be Reviewed

June 2017

Federal Circuit Reinstates Some of the “On-Sale” Bar

May 2017

Supreme Court Limits Preferred Venue for Patent Litigation

March 2017

Why Is One Courthouse Known as the “Patent Litigation Capital of America,” and Is That about to Change?

January 23, 2015

Trademark Tacking: Supreme Court Guidance

January 23, 2015

Claim Construction: Supreme Court Limits Federal Circuit’s Discretion in Patent Review

2014

Commercial Business Disputes and Litigation

National Business Institute

April 30, 2014

U.S. Supreme Court: Federal Courts Have Discretion to Award Attorney Fees in Patent Lawsuits

2013

Copyright Law 101

National Business Institute