




Heather L. Flanagan, Ph.D. Principal

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Overview

Highlights

- Heather helps progressive innovators survey, secure, and sustain their intellectual property assets in competitive markets.
- She supports advances in cleantech, nanotech, alternative energy, biofuels, efficient lighting and power sources, sustainability, resource recovery, materials and coatings, green consumer products, and plant-based foods.
- She specializes in comprehensive client counseling, with a focus on strategic portfolio development, freedom to operate assessments, patentability analyses, due diligence investigations, and complex patent prosecution.

About Heather

Heather integrates her legal and scientific expertise to help clients identify, protect, and maximize the value of their IP assets. Her focus on the specific needs and objectives of each client fosters a unique synergy with companies from start-ups to established entities, and her academic background provides a nuanced understanding of challenges faced by academic and research institutions.

Her command of science and technology provides a foundation for Heather's ability to partner with businesses that advance innovation. Her personal interest in green chemistry and sustainability, alternative energy sources, rechargeable batteries, efficient lighting, and plant-based foods drives her dedication to provide unparalleled service to companies at the forefront of these industries.

Heather cultivates relationships based on trust, and prioritizes mentoring and team building, with an emphasis on intellectual property training and outreach, STEM education, women in law, and pro bono service. She is an enthusiastic leader in the Fish Patent Lab, a well-honed, practical training program designed to steep interested clients and new legal staff in the firm's collective patent prosecution wisdom. She is a member of the Central Texas Council of Girlstart, an organization that works to increase girls' interest and engagement STEM education and careers. In the greater Austin community, Heather provides legal counsel to individuals and families through a variety of pro bono organizations.

Prior to joining Fish, Heather practiced at a local patent boutique and was Director of Intellectual Property and Grants at a start-up that licensed medical device technology from a major research institution.

Focus Areas

Services

- Patent
- Patent Prosecution

Industries

- Academic Research and Medical Centers
- Chemicals
- Cleantech
- Energy and Petrochemical
- Life Sciences
- Medical Devices
- Nanotechnology

Education

J.D., University of Texas Law School

M.B.A., Decision and Information Sciences, University of Florida

Ph.D., Physical Chemistry, Harvard University

B.S., Chemistry, University of Georgia

Insights

Publications

- Client Alert: Written Description as Applied to Continuation Applications (May 2010)

Speaking Engagements

- American Chemical Society Central Texas Local Section, Science at the Spa
- Austin IPLA: Ethics in Patent Prosecution, The Long Arm of the OED
- IDS Best Practices: Has anything changed since *Theresense?* (January 2018)
- Ethics in Patent Prosecution (January 2017)
- ACC Austin: Patent Valuation – Methods and Madness (October 2016)
- Women in Bio (WIB): Network with Purpose (June 2016)
- SXSW ECO 2016, Startup Coach
- SXSW Interactive 2016 – Startup Village – Pub Quiz: It's Too Soon to Worry About IP, Right?
- SXSW ECO 2015 – Startup Coach
- Dow v. Nova: Take Two (October 2015)
- SXSW Interactive 2014, Intellectual Property IQ
- SXSW ECO 2013 – Breakout Session Leader
- SXSW V2V 2013 – Mentor
- USPTO Texas Regional Independent Inventors Conference 2012 – “Ask the Expert”
- § 112, ¶ 6 in the Life Sciences: Prosecution Hurdles (May 2012)
- From Redneck Sofas to Machine Guns: Written Description Requirement Redux (October 2011)

Recognition

Honoree, "Women Worth Watching in STEM," *Profiles in Diversity Journal* (2021).

Susan P. Burton Award, Volunteer Legal Services, 2019

2016-2017 Pro Bono Award – The Honorable Lee Yeakel Intellectual Property Inn of Court

Memberships & Affiliations

American Inns of Court

American Intellectual Property Law Association

Austin Intellectual Property Law Association (Austin IPLA)

Central Texas Local Section Chair, American Chemical Society

Central Texas Council Member, Girlstart

Co-chair, UTCLE Advanced Patent Law Institute, 2019

Pathfinder Program, Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD), 2017

Pathfinder Program Facilitator, LCLD, 2018-2019

National Association of Women Lawyers

The Honorable Lee Yeakel IP Inn of Court