



John W. Thornburgh

Principal
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Overview

John Thornburgh focuses on patent litigation and appeals, especially computer- and medical device-related cases. He regularly manages cases for clients large and small, providing guidance, strategy, and advocacy.

John has significant experience managing cases, serving as primary client contact, seeking and opposing summary judgment, arguing in court, taking and defending depositions (including from inventors and experts), examining witnesses at trial, participating in alternative dispute resolution, negotiating and drafting settlement agreements and licenses, and handling appeals.

He has delivered victories in numerous "make or break" cases, achieved billion-dollar-plus wins for clients, and played a critical role in precedent-setting cases establishing new standards for patent damages.

John has represented clients in all Districts in California, the Eastern District of Texas, the Eastern District of Virginia, and the District of Delaware. His practice also extends to international disputes. John has appeared for clients before the International Trade Commission, conducted depositions abroad, served overseas clients, and worked for a year at a law firm in Paris.

Recognitions & awards

Best Lawyers in America

Best Lawyers 2015-2027

IAM Patent 1000

IAM 2022-2026

Super Lawyers

Super Lawyers 2007-2012, 2017-2021

Top Attorney in Intellectual Property Litigation

San Diego Daily Transcript 2006

Professional associations

Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America

Insights

IP Law Essentials | June 4, 2020

Post-Trial Motions: No Rest for the Post-Trial Attorney

News

News | August 20, 2026

75 Fish Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*

News | June 3, 2026

Fish & Richardson Receives Top Rankings in 2026 Edition of *IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals*

News | August 20, 2025

95 Fish Attorneys Included in the 2026 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*

News | May 30, 2025

Fish & Richardson Receives Top Rankings in 2025 Edition of *IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals*

News | January 30, 2025

Fish & Richardson Defeats Multi-Billion Dollar Demand at EDTX Jury Trial

Media Coverage | January 24, 2025

Fish & Richardson Trial Team Named *Law360*'s 'Legal Lions of the Week' for \$1.95 Billion Patent Case

Law360

News | August 15, 2024

101 Fish Attorneys Included in the 2025 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*

News | June 11, 2024

Fish & Richardson Receives Top Rankings in 2024 Edition of *IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals*

News | August 17, 2023

101 Fish Attorneys Included in the 2024 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*

News | June 27, 2023

Fish & Richardson Receives Top Rankings in 2023 Edition of *IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals*

News | September 8, 2022

Fish & Richardson Receives Top Rankings in 2022 Edition of *IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals*

News | August 22, 2022

96 Fish Attorneys Included in the 2023 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*

News | August 19, 2021

Fish Attorneys Recognized in 2022 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*

News | August 11, 2021

Fish & Richardson Secures Favorable Jury Verdict for Seirus in Design Patent Battle Against Columbia Sportswear

News | August 15, 2018

47 Fish Attorneys Named to The Best Lawyers in America 2019 List

Additional insights

Publications

- "Be an expert on expert witnesses," *Daily Journal* (November 2016)

Speaking engagements

- "[John Thornburgh: When Nerds Go to Trial](#)," *Reinventing Nerds* Podcast (March 2019)

Media mentions

- "Favorable jury verdict for Fish client Seirus in Columbia Sportswear North America, Inc. v. Seirus Innovative Accessories Inc.,"
"Verdicts & Settlements," *Daily Journal* (August 27, 2021)
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Services

Litigation

Patent Litigation

Appellate

Industries

Software & Internet

Hardware

Semiconductors

Consumer Electronics

Medical Devices

Admissions

California

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

Education

J.D. Order of the Coif (ranked first), Stanford Law School (1991)

B.A. *summa cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*, Economics, Philosophy, Rice University (1988)