



Michael J. Ballanco

Principal
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Overview

Michael J. Ballanco is a litigator with extensive experience across a range of venues, including District Court, the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, the International Trade Commission, and the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. Known for his flexibility, Michael's broad experience allows him to play a variety of roles when preparing for trial and to provide leadership and support across the entire case team.

In addition to his patent litigation work, Michael has experience with trademark litigation and disputes surrounding patent license agreements. In recent years, Michael has also done extensive work in the patent damages arena, helping his clients determine the potential damages at stake in litigation across a range of industries and technologies. In one significant matter in which he represented a large technology company, he successfully petitioned to exclude both opposing damages experts, which ultimately prevented the matter from going to trial. Michael also participated in the appeal of the damages decision, which was affirmed by the Federal Circuit.

Michael's talent for appellate representation stems in part from several years of experience as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Kara F. Stoll of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, where he has briefed and argued cases.

Beyond his litigation work, Michael's practice includes pro bono representation of death row inmates seeking to overturn wrongful convictions. In his free time, Michael enjoys collecting vinyl records and hiking and skiing with his three children.

Recognitions & awards

Ones to Watch

Best Lawyers 2022-2025

Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll

District of Columbia Courts 2024

Professional associations

Giles Rich Inn of Court, Member

Insights

Blog | May 23, 2025

En Banc Federal Circuit Grants Google a New Trial in *EcoFactor* Case

Blog | March 13, 2015

ITC Says it Has the Power to Stop Infringing Transmissions of Digital Materials

News

May 21, 2025

18 Fish & Richardson Attorneys Named to 2024 Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll

August 15, 2024

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

August 17, 2023

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

August 22, 2022

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

January 5, 2022

Fish & Richardson Elevates 17 Attorneys to Principal

August 19, 2021

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

April 7, 2021

Thirty Fish Attorneys Named to 2020 Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll

March 2, 2021

Fish & Richardson Secures Denial of IPR Petitions on Behalf of Moskowitz Family LLC in Spinal Surgery Patent Dispute

Additional insights

Publications

- "Searching for the First Amendment: An Inquisitive Free Speech Approach to Search Engine Rankings," 24 *MASON U. C.R. L.J.* 89 (Fall 2013)

Speaking engagements

- "Federal Circuit and Supreme Court Yearly Review" *Fish Litigation Webinar* (October 2018)

Media mentions

- "[Are Winds Of Change Finally Blowing On Patent Eligibility?](#)" *Law360* (December 21, 2022)
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Services

Litigation

Patent Litigation

Trademark, Copyright & Media Litigation

Appellate

Industries

Electrical & Computer Technology

Software & Internet

Hardware
Semiconductors
Telecommunications

Admissions

Virginia
District of Columbia
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia

Clerkships

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, The Honorable Kara F. Stoll (2015-2017)

Education

J.D. *magna cum laude*, George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School (2014) Editor-in-Chief, *George Mason University Civil Rights Law Journal*, Recipient, Law School Service Award
B.S. *cum laude*, Computer Science, concentration in Business, Lehigh University (2008)