



Nicholas W. Stephens

Principal
Minneapolis
612-766-2018
nstephens@fr.com

Overview

Nick Stephens' practice emphasizes post-grant proceedings and patent prosecution at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, including *inter partes* review proceedings before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB).

Nick has extensive experience counseling both petitioners and patent owners in post-grant proceedings before the PTAB. He has appeared in more than 100 *inter partes* or post-grant review proceedings, and in 2021, *Managing Intellectual Property* identified him as one of the nation's top 50 most active attorneys at the PTAB representing patent owners. Through his experiences challenging and defending patents at the PTAB, Nick also brings a unique perspective to his patent prosecution practice. He applies this experience to help clients protect their innovations and procure strong patents at the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Nick's practice has brought him experience working in a range of technology sectors, including medical devices, semiconductors, robotics, machine learning, operating systems, telecommunication standards, web security, image and video processing, and autonomous vehicles. He also enjoys working with pro bono clients in patent, immigration, and housing matters.

Before practicing law, Nick was an engineer with Rockwell Collins (2008-2010) and an engineering co-op with General Electric (2005-2007).

Recognitions & awards

Ones to Watch

Best Lawyers 2022-2025

Insights

Blog | March 31, 2025

What to Know About the PTAB's Discretionary Denial Shakeups

Post-Grant Report | March 5, 2025

2024 Post-Grant Annual Report

Blog | February 28, 2025

USPTO Rescinds 2022 Guidance on Discretionary Denials

Blog | November 13, 2024

Final Motion to Amend Rules Now in Effect at the PTAB

Blog | April 22, 2024

Legal Alert: USPTO Issues Proposed Rules on Discretionary Denial in PTAB Proceedings

Blog | March 4, 2024

Legal Alert: USPTO Proposes Rules Updating Motion to Amend Practice Before the PTAB

Article | September 20, 2022

2022 Ushers in New Developments in the Patent Review Process

Webinar | August 11, 2022

Post Grant for Practitioners: 2022 Mid-Year Review

Blog | June 22, 2022

Legal Alert: Director Vidal Issues Interim Guidance on Discretionary Denials under *Fintiv*

News

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*

August 19, 2021

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

January 25, 2021

Fish & Richardson Named #1 PTAB Law Firm of 2020 by *Managing Intellectual Property*

February 7, 2020

Fish & Richardson Elevates 14 Attorneys to Principal

Events

October 10, 2024

PTAB Bar Association Thought Leader Summit 2024

Additional insights

Publications

- “From *Forest Group* to the America Invents Act: False Patent Marking Comes Full Circle,” 97 *IOWA L. REV.* 1003 (2012)
-

Services

Post-Grant

Patent

Patent Prosecution

Admissions

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (2015)

Minnesota (2012)

Education

J.D. with high distinction, Order of the Coif, University of Iowa College of Law (2012) Contributing Editor, *Iowa Law Review*

B.S. with highest distinction, Electrical Engineering, Purdue University (2008)