



W. Karl Renner

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Overview

As chair of Fish & Richardson's Post-Grant Practice Group, Karl Renner has provided direction for well over 900 America Invents Act post-grant matters, both challenging and defending patents, most commonly in coordination with litigation counsel amidst co-pending disputes. He also serves on the firm's management committee.

Karl's practice emphasizes client counseling, strategic patent prosecution, and contentious *inter partes* and *ex parte* post-grant and reissue work before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. Karl previously served as president of the PTAB Bar Association, complementing his service as a founding director of the association, the first national bar association of its kind in more than 30 years. The PTAB Bar Association intends to establish best practices for the unique practice and skills required before the PTAB.

Karl manages the patent portfolios of clients ranging from emerging companies to Fortune 50 corporations. He also regularly advises on effective commercialization/enforcement of company intellectual property, and on defensive tactics to address competitor IP. In this regard, he excels in post-grant matters, representing both patent owners and challengers.

His technical focus is on the electrical, computer-related, physics, and mechanical arts. As such, Karl has extensive experience in the following technologies: internet-driven solutions, network systems and protocols, data storage and retrieval standards and media, microprocessor and computer architecture, mobile and other communications equipment and processes, display technologies, semiconductor devices and fabrication processes, signal and image processing techniques, complex optical and mechanical devices, error detection and correction techniques, cryptography, telecommunications, financial processes, acoustics and video standards and equipment, and thermodynamic processes and systems.

Karl has prior engineering experience with the instrumentation branch of the U.S. Department of Energy, where he worked on the development and implementation of control systems, high-frequency optical imaging of particles during combustion processes, computer programming in machine and object-oriented languages, and computer design and breadboard testing of analog circuits. Karl is now a frequent lecturer and author on IP matters, regularly speaking at University of Maryland events, in conjunction with their engineering schools and Hinman CEO program.

Recognitions & awards

IAM Patent 1000

IAM2013-2024

IP Star

Managing IP2013-2024

Patent Prosecutor of the Year

Bar Association of the District of Columbia 2024

Top PTAB Practitioner

Managing Intellectual Property (MIP) 2017-2022

Professional associations

PTAB Bar Association, Honorary Director Role of Immediate Past President (2022-2023), President (2021-2022), Founding Member of the Board of Directors (2016-Present)

Insights

Blog | April 25, 2025

PTAB Issues FAQs on Interim Process for Workload Management

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

Webinar | January 8, 2025

2024 Post-Grant Year in Review

Article | November 20, 2024

How a Second Trump Presidency Could Shape IP

Blog | April 22, 2024

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

Blog | April 17, 2024

Legal Alert: USPTO Issues Proposed Rules on Director Review

Post-Grant Report | January 17, 2024

2023 Post-Grant Annual Report

Webinar | January 17, 2024

Post-Grant 2023 Year in Review

Blog | October 17, 2023

USPTO Issues Proposed Rules on Pre-Issuance Internal Circulation and Review of PTAB Decisions

Blog | April 26, 2023

Legal Alert: USPTO Issues Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for PTAB Proceedings

Post-Grant Report | February 28, 2023

2022 Post-Grant Annual Report

Webinar | January 31, 2023

Post-Grant for Practitioners | 2022 Year in Review

Article | December 22, 2022

A Look Back on a Decade of Practice at the PTAB

Post-Grant Report | February 7, 2022

2021 Post-Grant Annual Report

News

News | December 17, 2024

Principal Karl Renner Named Patent Prosecutor of the Year by the Bar Association of the District of Columbia

News | October 4, 2024

Fish & Richardson Ranked Highly by *Managing IP*, Attorneys Named IP Stars

News | June 11, 2024

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

News | October 5, 2023

Fish & Richardson Ranked Highly by *Managing IP*, Attorneys Named IP Stars

News | June 27, 2023

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

News | March 2, 2023

Lex Machina Ranks Fish & Richardson Most Active Firm for Patent Defense and PTAB Work

News | September 8, 2022

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

News | June 21, 2022

PTAB Pro Bono Program Launches

News | June 2, 2022

Fish & Richardson Named a Top ITC and Life Sciences Firm by *Managing IP*, Attorneys Named IP Stars

News | May 25, 2022

Lex Machina Lists Fish & Richardson as Most Active Firm for Defendants and at the PTAB

News | March 21, 2022

Fish Tops List of Most Active Firms for Patent Defense and PTAB Petitioner Work in 2021

News | February 28, 2022

Fish & Richardson Shortlisted for 2022 *Managing IP* Americas Awards

News | July 7, 2021

Fish & Richardson Receives Top Rankings in 2021 Edition of *IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals*

News | May 18, 2021

Fish & Richardson Principal Karl Renner Named President of the PTAB Bar Association

News | January 25, 2021

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

News | August 24, 2020

Fish & Richardson Ranked #1 PTAB Law Firm in the U.S. for First Half of 2020 by *Managing Intellectual Property*

News | August 12, 2020

Fish & Richardson Receives Top "Gold" Ranking from *IAM Patent 1000* for National Litigation Practice; National Rankings in the Plaintiff Firm and Prosecution...

News | August 4, 2020

32 Fish & Richardson Attorneys Named 2020 "IP Stars" by *Managing Intellectual Property* Magazine

News | March 9, 2020

Fish & Richardson Named Most Active Law Firm at Patent Trial and Appeal Board for Fourth Consecutive Year

News | June 20, 2019

Fish & Richardson Receives Top "Gold" Ranking from *IAM Patent 1000* for National Patent Litigation Practice

News | May 22, 2019

Fish & Richardson Announces 32 Attorneys Named "IP Stars" by *Managing Intellectual Property* Magazine

News | April 3, 2019

Fish Marks 1,000 Appearances at the PTAB

News | February 26, 2019

Fish & Richardson Named Top PTAB Firm of 2018 by *Managing Intellectual Property*

Media Coverage | January 23, 2019

Reviewing 'A Tremendous Year of Change' for the PTAB

Managing Intellectual Property

Media Coverage | January 3, 2019

What To Expect After Year Of Change At The PTAB

Law360

Media Coverage | September 14, 2018

Ruschke Leaves 'Big Shoes to Fill' for Next PTAB Chief Judge

Managing Intellectual Property

News | August 10, 2018

Fish & Richardson Ranked Top Firm for Petitioners at the PTAB by *Managing Intellectual Property*

News | June 14, 2018

Fish Receives Top "Gold" Ranking from *IAM Patent 1000* for National Patent Litigation Practice

News | May 21, 2018

Fish & Richardson Announces 39 Attorneys Named "IP Stars" by *Managing Intellectual Property Magazine*

Media Coverage | April 30, 2018

PTAB Unveils AIA Review Plans After High Court Shakeup

Law360

Media Coverage | April 26, 2018

SCOTUS Abolishes PTAB Practice Of Partial Claim Review

Managing Intellectual Property

Media Coverage | February 23, 2018

Leading PTAB Atty Says Changes At Board Create Opportunity

Law360

News | January 19, 2018

Fish & Richardson Named #1 PTAB Law Firm in the U.S. for 2017 by *Managing Intellectual Property Magazine*

News | July 24, 2017

Fish & Richardson Receives Top "Gold" Ranking from *IAM Patent 1000* for National Patent Litigation Practice

News | June 23, 2017

Fish & Richardson Announces 36 Attorneys Named "IP Stars" by *Managing Intellectual Property Magazine*

Media Coverage | May 1, 2017

4 Recent PTAB Decisions Attys Need To Know

Law360

News | March 29, 2017

Fish & Richardson Wins "Case of the Year" Award and "U.S. Specialty IP Firm of the Year" Award by *Managing Intellectual Property*

Media Coverage | March 7, 2017

Inter Partes Reviews Becoming Friendlier To Patent Owners

Law360

News | February 17, 2017

Fish & Richardson Named #1 PTAB Law Firm in the U.S. for 2016 by *Managing Intellectual Property Magazine*

Media Coverage | February 10, 2017

Once A Mystery, PTAB Remands Start To Take Shape

Law360

News | June 29, 2016

Fish Receives Top Tier 1 National Rankings in Patent Prosecution and Patent Litigation from *The Legal 500*

News | June 15, 2016

Fish & Richardson Named to *IAMP* Patent 1000 for National Patent Litigation and Prosecution Practices

News | April 8, 2016

Fish & Richardson Obtains Full Federal Circuit Reversal for Cutsforth, Inc. After Faulty *Inter Partes* Review

News | January 26, 2016

Fish & Richardson Tops List of Busiest Firms at Patent Trial and Appeal Board

News | February 17, 2015

Fish & Richardson Named #1 PTAB Law Firm in the U.S. for 2014 by *Managing Intellectual Property*

News | December 16, 2014

Fish's Post-Grant Practice Co-Chairs Named as Intellectual Property Trailblazers by *The National Law Journal*

News | November 13, 2014

Fish & Richardson Has Three Principals Named "Intellectual Property Trailblazers & Pioneers" by *The National Law Journal*

Media Coverage | January 17, 2014

5 Tips For Killing Patents In AIA Reviews

Law360

Media Coverage | April 22, 2013

Q&A With Fish & Richardson's Karl Renner

Law360

Media Coverage | November 27, 2012

Kappos A Tough Act To Follow As USPTO Director

Law360

Events

February 21, 2024

IPBC Korea 2024

April 20, 2023

IPBC Korea 2023

April 28, 2022

PTAB Inventor Hour | Episode 7

March 24, 2022

2022 PTAB Bar Conference

December 2, 2021

American Conference Institute (ACI) - PTAB Practice Briefing

September 22, 2021

2021 PTAB Bar Annual Conference

January 28, 2021

2021 PTAB Bar Association Thought Leader Summit

September 24, 2020

2020 PTAB Bar Association Annual Conference

November 14, 2019

PTAB Bar Association Thought Leader Summit

July 24, 2019

Protecting Innovations in the Financial Services Industry

March 13, 2019

PTAB Bar Association 2019 Annual Conference

January 28, 2019

Informa: 2019 Drug Delivery Partnerships Conference

November 13, 2018

2018 PTAB Bar Association's Thought Leader Summit

November 13, 2018

IAM's Patent Law & Policy Seminar

October 24, 2018

IP Update: United States and China

July 25, 2018

World Congress' 15th Annual Summit on Protecting Innovations in the Financial Services Industry

March 22, 2018

PTAB Bar Association: 2018 Annual Conference

December 7, 2017

Momentum 2017 IP Counsel Exchange

December 6, 2017

Daily Journal 2017 SoCal Patent Disputes Forum

September 28, 2017

George Washington University School of Law: Third Annual GW Law Conference - Post-Grant Practice Roundtable Discussion

May 23, 2017

Momentum: 2017 IP Counsel Exchange San Jose

March 1, 2017

PTAB Bar Association Inaugural Conference

December 1, 2016

Momentum: 2016 IP Counsel Exchange

June 21, 2016

Association of Corporate Patent Counsel [ACPC] 2016 Summer Meeting

June 5, 2016

Consero IP Management Forum 2016

March 14, 2016

PLI USPTO Post-Grant Patent Trials 2016

June 7, 2015

Consero 2015 Global IP Management Forum

April 17, 2015

USPTO Post-Grant Patent Trials 2015

April 2, 2015

(CPA Global) Mid-Atlantic IP Forum: Innovating IP Management

March 26, 2015

USPTO Post-Grant Patent Trials

November 7, 2014

26th Annual All Hands Meeting

November 6, 2014

UT Law 19th Annual Advanced Patent Law Institute

May 6, 2014

PTAB AIA Trial Roundtables in Final Week - Hear from Fish Participants on May 14th

May 4, 2014

Global IP Management Forum

April 12, 2014

PTAB AIA Trial Roundtables

March 27, 2014

Inter Partes Review: Patent Owner's Perspective

February 27, 2014

The IP Counsel Exchange on Post-Grant Patent Challenges

January 22, 2014

ACI Patent Reform

January 8, 2014

Post-Grant for Practitioners Webinar Series Part XII: Inter Partes Review: The Year in Review

December 20, 2013

Inter Partes Review: The Year in Review

December 11, 2013

Part XI: Standing Before the Panel: Strategies for Post-Grant Oral Hearings

November 7, 2013

Challenging Validity in the Patent Office: A Look Back at the First Year, and a Look Ahead to Post-Grant Review and Potential Statutory Changes

November 5, 2013

Patent Dispute Forum 2013

September 11, 2013

Post-Grant for Practitioners Webinar Series Part VIII: Claim Amendments in Inter Partes Review: How? When? Why?

August 14, 2013

Webinar: Part VII: Inter Partes Review from the Patent Owner's Perspective

July 10, 2013

Post-Grant for Practitioners Webinar Series Part VI: Inter Partes Review - Claim Construction and Patent Owner Preliminary Response

June 25, 2013

Inter Partes Review: What Practitioners Need to Know About Using and Defending Against This New Tool

June 23, 2013

IP Management Forum

May 29, 2013

The IP Strategy Summit: Enforcement

May 8, 2013

Webinar: Conducting Trials in the PTAB

April 10, 2013

Webinar: Inter Partes Review and Covered Business Method Review - Recent Developments

February 8, 2013

U.S. Patent Law Developments 2009

September 19, 2012

Boston Breakfast Series: New Options for Challenging Patent Validity in the USPTO

October 24, 2011

U.S. Patent Law Developments 2011

April 22, 2010

Strategic Use of Patent Reexamination Seminar - Dallas

April 29, 2009

Inter Partes and *Ex Parte* Reexamination

Additional insights

Publications

- "IPR and PGR: A Complex and Shifting Landscape," *Managing Intellectual Property* (July 29, 2019)
- "To Reexamine or not to reexamine – A look beyond statistics to answer this question when facing a hostile patent," *IP Law 360* (2009)

Speaking engagements

- "Apply Best Practices in Oral Arguments Before The PTAB," *World Congress The 14th Annual Patents for Financial Services Summit* (July 2017)
- "Focus on the PTAB – District Court Interplay: Timing, Discovery, Evidence, Claim Construction and the Management of Joint Patent Proceedings," *Momentum: IP Counsel Exchange on Post-Grant Patent Challenges at the PTAB: San Jose* (May 2016)
- "Discovery, Evidence, Claim Construction and Addressing Key Evidentiary Issues That Arise During the Co-Pendency of Counterpart Patent Proceedings," *2nd IP Counsel Exchange on Post-Grant Patent Challenges at the PTAB* (March 2015)
- Co-Chaired Consero Group's "Post-Grant Executive Roundtable," (September 2014)
- "PTAB AIA Trial Roundtable," *USPTO* (May 2014)
- "AIA and *Inter Partes* Review," *CPA Global Webinar* (April 2014)

- "Challenging Patent Validity in the USPTO: Strategic Considerations in View of the USPTO's Final Rules - *Inter Partes* Review," Fish & Richardson Webinar (October 2013)
- "How Post-Grant Challenges Have Evolved From Proposed Rules to Practice," *What European Companies Need to Know About the Extraordinary Changes in U.S. & European Patent Law* (May 2013)
- "The America Invents Act: How Patent Reform Will Impact Your IP Strategy," *2012 Intellectual Property Forum* (2012)
- "When/Whether/Why Defend Using *Inter Partes* Review? And What Should You Do To Galvanize Your Patents Against It?" *2012 Intellectual Property Forum* (2012)
- "AIA: Post-Grant Proceedings in Comparison With German Post-Grant Proceedings," *What European Companies Need to Know About the Extraordinary Changes in U.S. Patent Law: The AIA & New Legal Standards from the Supreme Court & CAFC* (May 2012)
- "Of *Inter Partes* Reexamination and *Inter Partes* Review: Preparing for the Transition," *American Conference Institute* (March 2012)
- "Protecting & Monetizing Intellectual Property in Emerging Markets," *Consero Corporate Counsel Forum* (May 2011)
- "Strategies a Chinese Company Can Employ to Maximize the Value of a U.S. Patent Portfolio," *Selling to the U.S. Market: What Chinese Companies Need to Know About U.S. Patent Law* (April 2011)
- "A Conversation with the United States Patent and Trademark Office," *CLE Series hosted by U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware and the Federal Bar Association* (May 2010)
- "Positioning Your Reexamination for Success by Incorporating Procedural Requirements and Other Tactical Considerations into Your Advanced Strategy," *ACI's In-House Counsel Forum on Patent Reexamination* (May 2009)
- Presented on various topics surrounding the basics of intellectual property protection, *The University of Maryland's Technology Start-up Bootcamp* (2002-2009)
- "Developing a Practical Multi-Country Approach for Patent Enforcement, Litigation Management, and Execution," *ACI, Global Patent Litigation Congress* (November 2008)
- "Current Developments in Patent Applications, Appeals, Oppositions and Reexaminations," *Fish & Richardson Seminar* (October 2008)
- "The Convergence of IP Law and Business," *SIGGRAPH Conference* (August 2008)
- "Be strategic with your IP: Maximize its Value – An Opportunity and an Obligation," *AeANET Retreat* (2008)
- "Strategic Prosecution – Building a Litigation-worthy Patent Portfolio," *Fish & Richardson Seminar: United States Patent Law and Litigation – Important Issues Professionals in South Korea Need to Know* (December 2006)
- "Reexamination: Knowing When and How to Use This Strategic Defensive Weapon," *IP Law & Business Presents Innovations in IP Litigation* (December 2006)
- "Equipping business leaders to manage intellectual property issues," *Executive MBA Annual Meeting* (June 2006)
- "What VCs Need to Know About the Changing Patent Process & IP Protection," *National Venture Capital Association* (June 2005)

Media mentions

- "[These Firms Are Leading In PTAB Work](#)," *Law360* (February 8, 2024)
- "[Fish & Richardson Cashes in as Big Tech's Go-To Trial Law Firm](#)," *Bloomberg Law* (April 27, 2023)
- "[These Firms are Pulling in the Most PTAB Work](#)," *Law360* (February 15, 2023)
- "[These IP Boutique Firms Are Dominating PTAB Work](#)," *Law360* (May 19, 2022)
- "[4 Big Issues That Shaped The PTAB In 2021](#)," *Law360* (December 20, 2021)
- "[PTAB Institution Rate Drops, Petitions Stay Steady In FY 2020](#)," *Law360* (October 26, 2020)
- "[Coronavirus Q&A: Fish & Richardson's PTAB Group Co-Chair](#)," *Law360* (July 10, 2020)
- "[What To Expect After Year of Change At The PTAB](#)," *Law360* (January 1, 2019)
- "Reviewing 'A Tremendous Year of Change' for the PTAB," *Managing IP* (January 2019)
- "[PTAB Unveils AIA Review Plans After High Court Shakeup](#)," *Law360* (April 26, 2018)
- "[SCOTUS Abolishes PTAB Practice of Partial Claim Review](#)," *Managing IP* (April 25, 2018)

- ["Tough Questions Await As PTAB Partial Reviews Get Boot," *Law360* \(April 24, 2018\)](#)
 - ["Leading PTAB Atty Says Changes at Board Create Opportunity," *Law360* \(February 2018\)](#)
 - ["3 Emerging Trends At The PTAB," *Law360* \(May 4, 2017\)](#)
 - ["Once A Mystery, PTAB Remands Start To Take Shape," *Law360* \(February 9, 2017\)](#)
 - ["The Shifting Demarcations of the Inequitable Conduct Doctrine," *Forbes* \(June 17, 2011\)](#)
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Services

Post-Grant

Standard Essential Patents

Patent

Patent Prosecution

Strategic Patent Counseling & Opinions

Patent Portfolio Management

IP Licensing, Transactions & Agreements

Industries

Electrical & Computer Technology

Software & Internet

Hardware

Semiconductors

Consumer Electronics

Optics

Digital Media & E-Commerce

Financial, Business & FinTech Services

Telecommunications

5G

Energy & Chemicals

Petrochemical

Cleantech

Transportation, Aerospace & Defense

Admissions

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

District of Columbia

Virginia

Texas

Education

J.D., George Washington University Law School (1998)

B.S., Electrical Engineering, University of Maryland (1992)