

Jacek M. Wnuk

PRINCIPAL
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Jacek Wnuk is a trusted intellectual property advisor to Silicon Valley innovators and global enterprises developing cutting-edge technologies. With deep roots in both engineering and law, Jacek helps clients — from venture-backed startups to Fortune 100 companies — secure high-value patent portfolios across sectors like:

- Large language models and other machine learning and artificial intelligence systems
- Autonomous vehicles, including self-driving cars, drones and robotics
- 5G cellular networks, mobile devices and wearable technologies
- Cybersecurity, cryptography and blockchain infrastructure
- Medical devices, biotechnology and biosensor systems
- Semiconductor devices, fabrication equipment and manufacturing
- Imaging and optics, including cameras, LIDAR and advanced display systems
- 3D printing, aerospace systems and clean energy technologies

Before entering law, Jacek helped engineer early autonomous vehicle systems under the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Grand Challenge. Today, he translates that technical acumen into robust patent protection and results-oriented IP counseling for next-generation technologies. He regularly advises on:

- Global patent prosecution and portfolio development, including patent strategy, mining, drafting, and prosecution
- Freedom-to-operate and due diligence analyses for acquisitions, funding, and standard essential patents
- Post-grant proceedings, such as reissues and reexaminations
- IP licensing and collaboration between industry and academia

Jacek has been recognized nationally for his work in intellectual property law. He received the American Bar Association's 'On the Rise – Top 40 Young Lawyers' award in 2024, and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He has also been recognized by Best Lawyers with the Ones to Watch in America award in Patent Law and IP Law (from 2021 onward) and by Super Lawyers with the Rising Stars award (from 2021 onward). Jacek shares his knowledge regularly at continuing legal education (CLE) events, where he speaks on topics such as artificial intelligence in patent law.

Capabilities

- Intellectual Property
- Electrical Engineering & Computer Science Patent Prosecution
- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
- FinTech & Blockchain Technology
- Information Security (InfoSec)
- Intellectual Property Counseling & Opinions
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- International
- International Intellectual Property
- International Patent Filings & Strategy
- Life Sciences
- Mechanical Engineering & Medical Devices Patent Prosecution
- Medical Devices
- Patent Litigation
- Patent Preparation & Prosecution
- Post-Grant Proceedings
- Product Design & User Interface
- Restrictive Covenants & Trade Secrets Litigation

Education

- Loyola Law School, Los Angeles (J.D., 2013)
 - Intellectual Property Concentration; Giles Rich Patent Moot Court
- University of California, Berkeley (B.S., 2010)
 - Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

- Technology
- Trademark, Copyright & Branding

Bar Admissions

- California, 2014
- Admitted to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 2014

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Central District of California

Memberships

- State Bar of California, 2014-present
 - Intellectual Property Section
- Bar Association of San Francisco, 2016-present
 - Co-Chair, Barristers Club, Intellectual Property Section and Internet Law Section
- American Intellectual Property Law Association, 2018-present
- San Francisco Intellectual Property Law Association, 2018-present
- American Association of Advancement of Science (AAAS), 2017-present
- Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) Cooperating Attorneys, 2017-present
- Southern Poverty Law Center, 2017 - present
- American Bar Association
- American Bar Foundation, Fellow

Recognition

- American Bar Association "On The Rise" Top 40 Young Lawyers Award Honoree, 2024
- Named one of *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* in:
 - Intellectual Property Law, 2021-2025
 - Patent Law, 2024-2025
- Selected for inclusion in "Rising Stars" by *Super Lawyers*, 2021-2025

Matters

- Managed prosecution of extensive patent portfolios, including for a Fortune 200 company with thousands of active patent applications.
- Drafted, filed, and prosecuted hundreds of utility patent applications through the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and internationally via the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).
- Collaborate with foreign associate law firms to secure patent protection across multiple jurisdictions in North America, Europe, Asia, and South America.
- Successfully defended a startup client in a series of *ex parte* reexaminations initiated

by a Fortune 100 company, thus maintaining validity of multiple patents.

- Successfully appealed and overturned dozens of USPTO rejections before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB).
- Filed and successfully prosecuted reissue patents to correct issues and broaden claim scope.
- Negotiated an exclusive patent licensing agreement with a major university on behalf of a biotechnology startup client.
- Conducted in-depth patent mining and portfolio mapping sessions with inventors and executives to identify untapped potential and close patent portfolio coverage gaps.
- Performed IP due diligence analyses for acquisitions, licensing, standard-essential patent (SEP) compliance, and freedom to operate.
- Provided litigation support for several high-stakes intellectual property disputes (e.g., patent infringement, trade secret misappropriation, and trademark infringement).

Publications

April 1, 2026

AI in Law: Disruption or Reinvention of the Legal Workforce?

Quoted, LA Examiner

October 28, 2025

Adapting To USPTO's Reduction Of Examiner Interview Time

Co-Author, Law360

June 16, 2025

Can You Patent That? Unlocking the Secrets of Medical Device Patent Eligibility

Author, Medical Device Manufacturers Association

November 25, 2024

USPTO Finalizes Fee Hikes and New Fees for 2025: Key Tips for Patent Applicants

July 21, 2017

Inconsistent Energy Laws Complicate Energy Storage Adoption

National Law Review – also in Polsinelli on Drones – Advanced Robotics Blog

February 10, 2017

“2-for-1” Executive Order May Delay Drone Regulatory Frameworks

Polsinelli on Drones – Advanced Robotics Blog

November 19, 2015

Software Patents: History and Strategies Pt. II

National Law Review – also in Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie IP blog

November 13, 2015

Software Patents: History and Strategies Pt. I

National Law Review– also in Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie IP blog

February 9, 2013

The End of an Epithet? An Exploration of the Use of Legal Scholarship in Intellectual Property Decisions

Contributor, 50 Hous. L. Rev. 523

October 27, 2012

Unenforceability

Contributor, 70 Wash. – Lee L. Rev. 1751

July 10, 2012

The Pseudo-Elimination of Best Mode: Worst Possible Choice?

Contributor, 59 UCLA L. Rev. Disc. 170

April 25, 2012

In Memoriam Best Mode

Contributor, 64 Stan. L. Rev. Online 125

July 13, 2011

An Empirical Assessment of the Supreme Court's Use of Legal Scholarship

Contributor, 106 Nw. U. L. Rev. 995