

Patrick C. Woolley

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT CHAIR

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As chair of Polsinelli's Intellectual Property (IP) Department, Pat serves as the strategic architect behind one of the nation's largest full-service IP practices. He frequently works with company boards and executives on high-impact IP matters including Freedom to Operate analysis, pre-litigation, clearance and acquisition of technology, IP due diligence and portfolio strategy for venture capital, IPO readiness and other securities offerings, patent estate development, monetization strategies, and building intellectual property in anticipation of a sale. Known for bridging the gap between technical innovation and business strategy, Pat helps organizations use IP as a catalyst for growth, competitive advantage, and global leadership. His multidisciplinary background allows him to align IP strategy with core business objectives while effectively managing risk.

Pat's clients include startups, federal agencies, corporations, brand and generic pharmaceutical companies, universities, and research institutions. He has managed comprehensive IP portfolios for both Fortune 500 corporations and major research institutions. His global experience includes advising clients in Korea, Europe, and Japan.

He often counsels life sciences and pharmaceutical companies on complex matters, including Hatch-Waxman litigation and disputes under the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act (BPCIA). His technical experience spans a wide range of industries including biotechnology, medical devices, mechanical and chemical engineering, process development, and food chemistry.

Pat leads a department that advises across the full IP spectrum, including patents, trademarks, licensing, litigation, and strategic counseling. Under his leadership, Polsinelli's IP Department has received numerous recognitions, including *Chambers & Partners* and *U.S. News – Best Lawyers® Best Law Firms* which named Polsinelli the 2023 "Law Firm of the Year" in Patent Law.

Education

- Washburn University School of Law (J.D., 1993)
- Kansas State University (B.S., 1990)

Capabilities

- Biosimilars
- Biotechnology & Life Sciences Patent Prosecution
- Chemical Manufacturing
- Consumer Products & Luxury Goods
- Hatch-Waxman & Biologics
- Intellectual Property
- Intellectual Property Counseling & Opinions
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- International
- International Intellectual Property
- International Patent Filings & Strategy
- International Trademark & Clearance
- Life Sciences
- Patent Preparation & Prosecution
- Post-Grant Proceedings
- Trademark, Copyright & Branding
- Technology
- Trademark Clearance & Prosecution
- Solare Brand Protection Program

Bar Admissions

- Missouri, 1995
- Kansas, 1993
- Admitted to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office

- Agribusiness
- Space Technology

Memberships

- ALS Accel, Board Member
- American Intellectual Property Law Association
- American Bar Association
 - Intellectual Property International Trademark Association
- Della Lamb Board of Directors

Recognition

- Named a BTI Client Service All-Star, 2025
- *Managing Intellectual Property*, IP Stars – Patent Star, 2024-2025
- Selected for inclusion in the IAM Patent 1000 list of the World's Leading Patent Practitioners, 2022-2026, Missouri - Recommended
- Selected for *Best Lawyers*® "Lawyer of the Year" in Kansas City, Missouri, for Trademark Law, 2023, 2026
- Ranked in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Intellectual Property, Missouri, 2012-2026
- Selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*® for:
 - Patent Law, 2023-2026
 - Trademark Law, 2022-2026
 - Litigation - Intellectual Property, 2021-2026
 - Biotechnology and Life Sciences Practice, 2011-2026

Matters

- Represented a generic pharmaceutical company in drafting invalidity opinions designed to precipitate a Hatch-Waxman proceeding.
- Developed an international patent portfolio for a medical device company whereby patentability was assessed followed by preparation of detailed patent applications designed to protect the client's device.
- Helped a company bring new insecticide to market by issuing freedom to operate opinions, drafting patent applications based on new compositions in use of pesticides, clearance of trademarks so the packaging was relieved of any issues, and close work with executives at the company to ensure both entry into the marketplace, as well as protection of intellectual property.
- Assisted client in drafting intellectual property section for an initial public offering.
- Developed a plan to file patent applications on software and devices to protect a company's new development related to an infant respiratory device.
- Developed a plan for protecting new chemical entities developed by client in the coating industry. The plan included reviewing prior art to ensure clearance and drafting patent applications that distinguished from existing similar compositions.
- Managed a portfolio of 800 domestic and international patents and applications.
- Analyzed patents and technology as part of a multimillion dollar acquisition.

- Drafted patent applications and analyzed freedom to operate for a refracting crystal.
- Drafted applications for a portfolio of water treatment and toxic gas cleaning systems.
- Drafted a portfolio of applications directed to a mental health diagnostic, which utilized combinations of SNPs and support vector machines to determine outcome.
- Advised a start-up medical institute on how to implement a patent program and drafted applications on early stage technologies.
- Argued cases before the Patent Board of Appeals.
- Developed a trademark portfolio for a consumer product and cleared marks in advance of use.

Publications

December 15, 2023

Polsinelli Intellectual Property: 2023 Year in Review

January 12, 2023

Five minutes with... Polsinelli

Featured, World Trademark Review

August 26, 2022

Tech Provider Acquires Polsinelli's Custom AI-Based Patent Tool

Quoted, ALM/Law.com