

Jeffrey A. Wakolbinger

Partner

Chicago Office

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Practices

FOCUS: Intellectual Property
Advertising, Marketing and Promotions
Intellectual Property Litigation
Litigation
Trademarks and Trademark Litigation

Industries

Entertainment and Media
Fashion
Hospitality
Technology

Education

JD, University of Illinois College of Law,
Order of the Coif
BM, Millikin University, *summa cum laude*

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Court Admissions

US Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
US District Court, Northern District of
Illinois, Trial Bar
US District Court, Southern District of Illinois

Community Involvements

American Bar Association
Intellectual Property Law Association of
Chicago
University of Illinois College of Law, Alumni
Board

Jeff Wakolbinger concentrates his practice on trademarks, copyrights, unfair competition, advertising and trade secrets. He works with a wide range of clients, from small-business owners to multinational corporations in fashion, tech, hospitality and other industries. Jeff helps these clients clear intellectual property, obtain registrations and resolve and avoid disputes.

Many intellectual property disputes can be avoided through due diligence

Jeff has represented the owners of many well-known brands in litigation and appeals in federal court and before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. He also has defended clients in a wide range of industries including entertainment, consumer electronics, fashion and pharmaceuticals. Jeff has been involved in all stages of litigation from pleadings and preliminary injunctions to trial and appeal. He regularly counsels clients on how to avoid litigation in matters involving trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets and advertising. He suggests that they strengthen their own intellectual property rights and respect the rights of others.

Jeff remains active with the University of Illinois College of Law and regularly serves as a mentor for current law students.

Prior to joining Katten, Jeff served as a law clerk to a federal district court judge in the Northern District of Illinois. He was also an associate at a boutique law firm, focusing primarily on domestic and foreign trademarks.

In law school, he served as symposium editor of the *University of Illinois Law Review*, and he is currently an editor of the *Trademark Reporter*, the law journal of the International Trademark Association.

Before attending law school, Jeff worked as a musician and recording engineer in Los Angeles. He still maintains a strong interest in the arts and regularly devotes time to pro bono matters for up-and-coming artists.

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Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- Super Lawyers
 - Illinois, 2019–2021
- Super Lawyers Rising Stars
 - Illinois, 2014–2018

News

- Katten Attorneys Chosen for 2021 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 29, 2021)
- Katten Attorneys Selected to 2020 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 29, 2020)
- Katten Elevates Attorneys to Partner (September 3, 2019)
- Super Lawyers Lists Honor More Than 50 Katten Attorneys in Illinois (January 24, 2019)
- Katten Wins Dismissal of Opposition to Mansur Gavriel Trademark Registration Following TTAB Trial (October 1, 2018)
- Katten IP Team Wins "Mickey" Trademark Infringement Case (February 15, 2018)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2018 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 25, 2018)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2017 Illinois *Super Lawyers*, Rising Stars Lists (January 13, 2017)
- Forty-Seven Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2016 Illinois *Super Lawyers* List (January 8, 2016)

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- Katten Represents Cumulus Media in Win Over Class Claims Regarding Pre-1972 Royalties (December 2, 2015)
- Fifty-Three Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2015 Illinois *Super Lawyers* List (January 12, 2015)
- Katten Represents InMarket Media in Successfully Blocking Injunction Bid (January 5, 2015)
- Katten Represents HBO Films in Intellectual Property Settlement (December 31, 2014)
- Katten Obtains Permanent Injunction for Aéropostale in Settlement of Trademark Infringement Lawsuit (July 25, 2014)
- Fifty-Four Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2014 Illinois *Super Lawyers* List (January 13, 2014)
- Katten's Representation of Scripps in *Food Fanatics* Suit Noted in Law360 (September 11, 2013)

Publications

- *The Katten Kattwalk* (Triannual) | Contributor
- *Kattison Avenue* (Quarterly) | Contributor
- A Highlights Reel on NIL Rights for Student Athletes (September 15, 2021)
- Supreme Court Confirms Registration is Prerequisite to Claim for Infringement (March 7, 2019)
- Landmark Trade Secrets Law Creates New Federal Civil Cause of Action and Compliance Obligations for All Employers (June 2, 2016)
- Landmark Trade Secrets Law Creates New Federal Civil Cause of Action and Compliance Obligations for All Employers (May 11, 2016)
- A Hail Mary to the U.S. Supreme Court? Owner of REDSKINS Marks Petitions for Hearing on Constitutionality of Section 2(a) of the Lanham Act (May 5, 2016)

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- Apple-Samsung Trade Dress Case Demonstrates Potential Value of Design Patents (May 20, 2015)
- On the Importance of Early Identification [of Trade Secrets] and Getting Specific (April 9, 2014)

Presentations and Events

- 2020 ANA/BAA Marketing Law Conference (November 10–12, 2020) | *Panelist | Hot Issues and New Problems in Trademark & Copyright Law*
- BAA Government & Legal Affairs Update: June 2016 (June 23, 2016) | *Panelist*