

Christopher B. Ferenc

Partner

Intellectual Property

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Christopher Ferenc helps clients resolve complex patent and technology-related disputes in the federal courts and the US Patent and Trademark Office. As a registered patent attorney, Chris draws on his scientific training to provide clients with practical legal advice regarding complex legal questions across a diverse array of industries and disciplines.

Protecting technology at the heart of business

From global generic pharma giants to leading digital security companies, Chris represents clients looking for practical and efficient solutions to multifaceted legal disputes involving sophisticated technology that is critical to the success of their business. Chris represents both plaintiffs and defendants in patent litigation in the US federal courts, including engaging in high-stakes patent disputes arising under the Hatch-Waxman Act. Chris manages all facets of patent litigation, including pre-suit investigation, fact and expert discovery, dispositive motions, pre-trial preparation, trial and appeals. Chris has also represented both patent owners and patent challengers during *inter partes* review proceedings at the US Patent Trial and Appeal Board.

Chris's experience spans a diverse array of technologies. Over the course of his career, Chris has counseled clients on legal disputes involving pharmaceuticals, specialty chemicals, network security solutions, medical devices, cosmetics, mechanical devices, navigational instruments, wearable technology and textiles.

In addition to his litigation practice, Chris advises clients on strategic patent planning, including patent prosecution of US and foreign patent portfolios, due diligence, licensing, freedom-to-operate studies, patent landscape analysis, and invalidity and noninfringement opinions.

Representative Experience

- Represented Sawai in patent litigation surrounding a proposed generic version of Myrbetriq® (mirabegron). Favorable confidential settlement reached.

Practices

- Hatch-Waxman Litigation
- Intellectual Property
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- Patent Litigation and Patents
- Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences Litigation
- Trademark Licensing and Strategy

Industries

- Life Sciences
- Technology

Education

- JD, Seton Hall University School of Law
- BS, University of Virginia, Chemistry, specialization in Biochemistry

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia
- New Jersey
- Virginia

Court Admissions

- US Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
- US District Court, Eastern District of Virginia
- US District Court, District of New Jersey
- US Patent & Trademark Office

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- Represent Japanese pharmaceutical company in patent litigation surrounding a proposed generic version of Tecfidera® (dimethyl fumarate). Favorable confidential settlement reached.
- Represented Qilu in patent litigation surrounding a proposed generic version of Aloxi® (palonosetron). Favorable confidential settlement reached.
- Represented Apotex in patent litigation surrounding a proposed generic version of Azilect® (rasagiline mesylate). Favorable confidential settlement reached just before trial.
- Represented generic drug manufacturer in patent litigation surrounding proposed generic version of Astepro® (azelastine). Favorable confidential settlement reached.
- Represented Strides in patent litigation surrounding proposed generic versions of Zometa® and Reclast® (zoledronic acid). Representation ended after Strides was purchased by Mylan.
- Represented defense contractor during *inter partes* review proceeding before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board concerning patented technology supporting the navigation system in a pilot helmet. Representation ended after filing patent owner response.
- Represented defense contractor in appeal of decision from Court of Federal Claims regarding § 101 issues concerning patented technology supporting the navigation system in a pilot helmet. Representation ended after filing appeal brief.
- Represented athletic garment manufacturer against *inter partes* review challenge before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board concerning patented moisture control garment technology. Favorable confidential settlement reached.
- Represented athletic garment manufacturer as plaintiff in patent litigation concerning patented moisture control garment technology. Favorable confidential settlement reached.
- Defended providers of network security services in patent litigation regarding methods of out-of-band authentication. Favorable confidential settlement reached just before trial.
- Represented provider of network security services as plaintiff in patent litigation regarding its patented technology for MDSSO and methods for selectively authenticating and authorizing access to protected computer networks. Favorable confidential settlement reached.

- Defended provider of network security services in patent litigation regarding methods for filtering email messages based on semantic modeling. Favorable dismissal reached.
- Defended electronics technology development company in patent litigation regarding hierarchical storage manager technology. Favorable confidential settlement reached.
- Defended sportswear company in patent litigation regarding methods and systems for physical performance monitoring. Favorable confidential settlement reached.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *ANDA Litigation Intelligence Report*
  - Best Performing ANDA Attorneys Representing Defendants, 2023; Top 50, 2024-2025
  - Most Active ANDA Attorneys Representing Defendants, Top 100 2022–2024; Top 50 2025
  - Best Performing ANDA Attorneys Overall (Representing Plaintiffs or Defendants), 2024; Top 50 2025
  - Most Active ANDA Attorneys Overall (Representing Plaintiffs and Defendants), 2024-2025

News

- Katten Earns Repeat Recognition as a Top Three ANDA Litigation Firm (September 2, 2025)
- Katten Ranked Top Three Firm in ANDA Litigation (September 3, 2024)
- Katten Ranked Top Three Firm in Hatch-Waxman Litigation (September 5, 2023)
- Katten Intellectual Property Team Secures Significant Victory for Apotex in Hatch-Waxman Litigation (November 1, 2022)
- Katten Ranks Among Top Three Most Active Law Firms in ANDA Litigation (August 22, 2022)
- Katten Assists in Farasis Energy's Restructuring, Listing on SSE STAR Market and Its Strategic Cooperation With Daimler (July 20, 2020)

- Katten's Insolvency and Restructuring Team Wins Two Turnaround Awards (December 12, 2019)
- Katten Elevates Attorneys to Partner (September 3, 2019)
- Katten Attorneys Honored for Outstanding Volunteer Legal Services (June 21, 2019)
- Christopher Ferenc Comments on Getting Juries To Ax Patents Under *Alice* (March 5, 2018)
- Associate Christopher Ferenc Comments on IPR Proceedings in *BioPharm Insight* (March 27, 2014)

Publications

- Trio of IP Attorneys Author *Intellectual Property & Technology Law Journal* Article on Attorney Fee Awards in 'Exceptional' Cases (June 4, 2025)
- The Balance Between Obviousness and Written Description — Lessons Learned from Recent Decisions (August 5, 2020)
- California Enacts "Reverse-Payment" Law Aimed at Patent Settlements — An Initial Look … Assuming It Is Upheld (May 19, 2020)
- Supreme Court Declines To Disturb Pre-AIA Interpretation of "On Sale" Bar (January 25, 2019)
- Pair of Federal Circuit Decisions May Impact Early Section 101 Challenges in Patent Litigation (February 21, 2018)
- Federal Circuit Recognizes an Exception to Inter Partes Review Estoppel Provisions (April 6, 2016)
- Apple-Samsung Trade Dress Case Demonstrates Potential Value of Design Patents (May 20, 2015)
- Patent Trial and Appeal Board Issues First IPR Decisions on Orange Book-Listed Patents (December 12, 2014)
- Federal Circuit Issues Decision Affirming Obviousness of a Molecule Patent Claim (June 16, 2014)
- Indefiniteness Guidance in Advance of *Nautilus* Decision (May 8, 2014)
- Enantiomer Patents: Innovative or Obvious? (February 7, 2014)
- Congress Passes Patent Reform Bill (September 9, 2011)
- US Supreme Court Issues a Trio of Patent Opinions (June 15, 2011)

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Presentations and Events

- 2014 Quarterly Biologics Update (April 24, 2014) | *Speaker*
- IP Counsel Exchange for Biosimilar Applicants & Sponsors (January 23–24, 2014) | *Panelist* | *The Evolving Biosimilar Landscape*
- The Road Forward: Hatch-Waxman Litigation Settlements in the Wake of *FTC v. Actavis* (October 10, 2013) | *Moderator*
- Summer Update: What You Need to Know About the New Patent Laws under the AIA (June 5, 2012) | *Panelist*
- Understanding the U.S. Patent System (October 31, 2011) | *Speaker*