

Robert J. Sovesky

Partner

Pittsburgh
+1.412.355.8332

Washington, DC
+1.202.778.9000

Robert.Sovesky@klgates.com

OVERVIEW

Robert Sovesky's practice focuses on commercial intellectual property (IP) law with a strong emphasis on technology transactions, government contracts, IP procurement, and strategic advisement. His experience focuses on aligning IP strategies with technology-driven business objectives, contract requirements, and funding timelines. Robert offers tailored guidance to navigate complex technology transactions and IP portfolios for clients ranging from Fortune 100 companies to emerging startups.

Robert excels in management of worldwide patent and trademark portfolios, negotiating and structuring licensing agreements, conducting due diligence for IP-related deals, and providing strategic counseling on technology roadmaps. His experience includes freedom-to-operate analyses, clearance searches, patentability and landscape analyses, infringement and non-infringement opinions, and validity and invalidity opinions.

Robert is skilled in addressing subject invention determinations, compliance with federal IP regulations, and the management of IP rights under government-funded projects. He provides general advisement on optimizing IP strategies within the constraints of government contracts, ensuring clients maintain competitive advantages while meeting contractual obligations.

Robert's technical experience lies in chemical, material science, medical, energy systems, and biotech fields. For example, his experience includes metallurgy, additive manufacturing printing (3D printing), nanomaterials, batteries, thermal interface materials, aerospace, polymers, foams, coatings, sealants, hydrocarbon processing (oil and gas), catalysis, wood chemistry, plasma chemistry, pharmaceuticals, automotive, fasteners, medical equipment and procedures, nuclear chemistry, food production, proteins, and renewable energy devices. This broad technical knowledge informs his ability to counsel clients on a wide variety of matters.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Robert has consulted for the oil and gas industry and has worked for a hydrocarbon processing company in the development of catalysis based reactors. Additionally, Robert has worked for a large corporation as a chemical engineer and as an intellectual property coordinator in the development of chemical/biological agent sensors and treatments for the remediation of chemical/biological agents. Additionally, Robert has worked for a boutique intellectual property law firm in the D.C. metro area.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Law Association
- American Institute of Chemical Engineers
- American Chemical Society
- Duquesne Law Alumni Association

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "How to Protect the Intellectual Property of Your Business? (Webinar)," SBDC Pennsylvania, 2 November 2022
- Speaker, "How to Protect The Intellectual Property of Your Business?," Small Business Development Center Pennsylvania, 12 October 2021
- Moderator for a session on “Cutting-edge Technology and the Resources Available to Entrepreneurs” presented at the Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, 5 March 2020
- “Start-up, Spin-out, don't burn out: Protecting your Intellectual Assets on a Shoe String Budget” presented at the AIChE Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Orlando on Monday, 11 November 2019
- “The Importance of Intellectual Property (IP) for Startups: The Need to Develop an IP Strategy Early and Evaluate it Often” presented at K&L Gates, Pittsburgh, 21 March 2019
- “Helsinn v. Teva: The Meaning of 'On Sale' After the AIA” presented at K&L Gates, Pittsburgh, 11 March 2019
- “Preparing and Prosecuting U.S. Patent Applications” presented at Half Moon Seminars, Pittsburgh, 26 February 2019

EDUCATION

- J.D., Duquesne University School of Law, 2015
- Master of Science in Engineering, Youngstown State University, 2010 *(Chemical Engineering)*
- B.E., Youngstown State University, 2009 *(Chemical Engineering)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of District of Columbia
- Bar of Pennsylvania
- United States Patent and Trademark Office

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "'Fencing off': Protecting market products under US patent law," *World IP Review*, 23 September 2022
- "Zoom bombing," *Intellectual Property Magazine*, November 2020

NEWS & EVENTS

- 11 March 2025, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Receive Global Recognition in *Thomson Reuters*' Stand-out Lawyers List
- 6 January 2025, K&L Gates Names Nearly 35 New Partners, Of Counsel, and Policy Professionals Across Firm
- 10 November 2020, Duquesne University Small Business Development Center Technology Commercialization Series: Effectively Protecting Intellectual Assets

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Mentioned, "Sharon Tiger Techs Robotics Team wins awards at FIRST World Championship," *The Herald*, April 2024

AREAS OF FOCUS

- IP Procurement and Portfolio Management
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Government Contracts and Procurement Policy
- Technology Transactions and Sourcing

INDUSTRIES

- Aerospace and Defense
- Automotive
- Energy
- Manufacturing
- Metals Manufacturing and Fabrications
- Specialty Chemicals