

Robert M. Barrett

Senior Of Counsel

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OVERVIEW

Robert M. Barrett concentrates his practice in intellectual property law and, more specifically, strategic counseling and portfolio management leveraging his decades of experience handling patent litigation, prosecution, licensing, due diligence, portfolio management, and counseling. Robert's extensive experience includes working with companies in the biotech, chemical, software, e-commerce, healthcare, manufacturing, medical device, packaging, and food science spaces. He has acted as strategic IP advisor for some of the world's largest and most prominent companies including Nestlé, Baxter International, Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company, Ondeo Nalco Chemical, Methode Electronics, and Kyocera, as well as for a number of the nation's leading universities. In addition, he has helped a number of organizations monetize their IP rights including representing the seller in the largest royalty monetization.

He is a global practice area leader for the IP group. Previously, Robert was vice chairman of Bell Boyd & Lloyd at the time of its combination with K&L Gates in 2009. A degreed chemist prior to law school, he worked as a chemical engineer for an American tire company.

An adjunct professor of patent law at two separate law schools, Robert has been recognized by industry publications as a leading practitioner in intellectual property law. For example, he served as one of Law360's “Voices of the Bar,” a panel of highly accomplished IP professionals, including former judges, policy makers, academics, and inside and outside counsel, discussing timely and important developments in the field of intellectual property law. He also co-founded the Kent Intellectual Property Law Clinic and Chicago Intellectual Property Alliance.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Recommended Lawyer for Patents: litigation (full coverage) and Trademarks: non-contentious (including prosecution, portfolio management and licensing), 2025
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Patent Law in Chicago, 2014-2025
- Listed as a leader in Illinois IP Litigation and Prosecution, *IAM Patent* 1000, 2020-present
- Named an IP Star by *Managing Intellectual Property* in the United States and Illinois categories, 2014-2023

- Named to the Illinois Super Lawyers list annually since the honor's inception, 2005-2023

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Chicago Intellectual Property Alliance (Co-Founder; Past President, *President Emeritus*)
- French-American Chamber of Commerce–Chicago (Former Board of Directors)
- Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago (Past President; Former Member of Board of Managers)
- IPLAC Education Foundation (Founding Member and Past President)
- MIT Enterprise Forum of Chicago (Former Executive Committee)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Robert is a frequent lecturer with professors from Chicago-Kent College of Law on recent developments in patent law.

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Oklahoma College of Law, 1981 *(with honors, Order of the Coif)*
- B.S., University of Oklahoma, 1977 *(Chemistry)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Illinois
- United States Patent and Trademark Office
- United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- February 2022, February 2022 Accolades
- 15 July 2016, Patent Office Propounds New Post-Prosecution Pilot Program
- 24 May 2016, Abstract Ideas and the USPTO: Examiner Guidance Post *Enfish* and *TLI*
- 11 May 2016, USPTO Clarifies Subject Matter Eligibility Procedure
- 10 May 2016, U.S. Patent Office Issues New Examples of Patent Eligibility Analysis of Life Sciences Claims

- 29 March 2016, Quality, Quantity and Comments: USPTO's New Patent Quality Metrics

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "How PTAB Applies Mayo To Methods Involving Natural Principles," *Law360*, 6 February 2017
- "A Guide To USPTO Guidance On Patentable Subject Matter," *Law360*, 19 May 2014

NEWS & EVENTS

- 2 June 2026, K&L Gates IP Practice and Lawyers Recognized in 2026 Edition of IAM Patent 1000
- 6 June 2025, K&L Gates' IP Practice, Lawyers Recognized Among Leaders in 2025 Edition of IAM Patent 1000
- 7 October 2024, K&L Gates' Intellectual Property Practice, Lawyers Recognized in 2024 *Managing IP* Magazine's "IP Stars"
- 10 June 2024, K&L Gates' IP Practice, Lawyers Recognized Among Leaders in 2024 Edition of IAM Patent 1000
- 3 June 2024, K&L Gates Welcomes Intellectual Property Disputes Team in Frankfurt
- 4 March 2024, K&L Gates Strengthens Intellectual Property Practice With Charlotte Partner Addition
- 13 November 2023, K&L Gates Recognized as IP Litigation Powerhouse
- 23 October 2023, K&L Gates' Intellectual Property Practice, Lawyers Recognized in 2023 *Managing IP* Magazine's "IP Stars"
- 12 September 2023, K&L Gates Honors Late Longtime Partner With Establishment of Loyola Scholarship
- 1 August 2023, K&L Gates Intellectual Property Practice Listed Among Leaders in 2023 IAM Patent 1000 Rankings
- 12 July 2023, K&L Gates Bolsters Intellectual Property Practice With Addition of Charlotte Partner and Multi-Office Team
- 9 May 2023, K&L Gates Bolsters Corporate, IP Practices With Los Angeles Partner Additions
- 6 October 2022, K&L Gates Recognized in 2022 *Managing IP* Magazine's 'IP Stars'
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 11 July 2022, K&L Gates Intellectual Property Practice Recognized Among Leaders in 2022 IAM Patent 1000 Rankings
- 9 March 2022, K&L Gates Continues IP Practice Growth, Bolsters Pharma, Biotech Capabilities With Addition of 10-Person Patent Team in Boston

- 2 November 2021, K&L Gates Named Among Top Intellectual Property Litigation Firms
- 18 October 2021, K&L Gates Continues Growth of Intellectual Property Practice With Addition of Trademarks Partner in Austin
- 22 September 2021, K&L Gates Further Strengthens Intellectual Property Practice With Addition of Seasoned Litigation Partner in Chicago
- 20 September 2021, K&L Gates Continues Growth of Technology Transactions/Privacy Practice With Additions of Seattle Partner and Associate
- 19 August 2021, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2022 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 12 August 2021, K&L Gates Intellectual Property Practice Again Ranked Among Leaders in 2021 IAM Patent 1000
- 6 July 2021, K&L Gates Further Bolsters Global IP Capabilities With Addition of Japanese Intellectual Property Team
- 3 June 2021, K&L Gates Lawyers Ranked as 2021 ‘IP Stars' by Managing IP Magazine
- 21 May 2021, Chambers USA 2021 Guide Recognizes K&L Gates Intellectual Property Practice, Lawyers
- 10 May 2021, K&L Gates Strengthens Technology Transactions and Privacy Practice Group With Seattle Partner Addition
- 14 September 2020, K&L Gates Further Bolsters Intellectual Property Practice With Addition of Orange County Team
- 5 August 2020, K&L Gates Intellectual Property Practice Ranked Among Leaders in 2020 IAM Patent 1000
- 23 July 2020, K&L Gates Intellectual Property Practice Ranked by The Legal 500 United States 2020 Guide with Six Lawyers Recommended
- 29 June 2020, K&L Gates, Lawyers Ranked as Trademark and Patent ‘IP Stars' by *Managing IP Magazine*
- 25 June 2020, K&L Gates Intellectual Property Partner Elected to Board of Managers of The Chicago Bar Association
- 18 February 2020, K&L Gates, Lawyers Named as IP and Trademark Leaders in 2020 *World Trademark Review 1000* Rankings
- 9 July 2019, K&L Gates Bolsters IP Practice with Addition of Four-Lawyer Austin Team
- 19 March 2018, K&L Gates Welcomes Returning Chicago IP Litigation Partner

AREAS OF FOCUS

- IP Procurement and Portfolio Management

- IP Litigation
- Post-Grant Patents
- Technology Transactions and Sourcing

INDUSTRIES

- Life Sciences

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Coordination of numerous patent litigation matters on behalf of Baxter against, among other parties, Baxalta, Braun, Becton Dickinson, Fresenius
- For over a decade, have functioned as Baxter's primary outside U.S. patent counsel handling inter alia: preparation and prosecution of thousands of patent applications; freedom to operate opinions; IP due diligence; post-grant reviews including reexaminations and inter parte reviews; oppositions of European patents; and portfolio management
- For years, prior to its merger with Mars, outside IP counsel to Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company handling all aspects of intellectual property work including patent and trademark preparation and prosecution, patent litigation, opinion work, and client counseling
- For over a decade, have functioned as Nestle's primary outside U.S. patent counsel handling inter alia: filing and prosecution of thousands of patent applications; freedom to operate opinions; IP due diligence; and portfolio management