



## Robert W. Connors

### Partner

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## OVERVIEW

Robert W. Connors concentrates his practice in patent procurement and intellectual property litigation, including patent, trademark and copyright matters. He has extensive experience with patent prosecution and related opinions, post-grant procedures, litigation, licensing and related business issues in the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

Robert currently manages \$3-5MM/year in legal spend on intellectual property matters, including:

- large scale freedom to operate investigations and opinions for new client launches,
- patent, trademark, copyright and general litigation to ensure quality and manage costs,
- client IP disputes to negotiate favorable settlements,
- invalidation proceedings in the US and EP for strategic competitor IP,
- investigation of client portfolios to identify strategic IP to assert against competitive products,
- investigation of client portfolios to identify strategic IP for licensing,
- client portfolio review to identify US and foreign IP ripe for culling, resulting in substantial cost savings,
- written presentations to client in-house attorneys, R&D and upper management,
- identification of client's developmental technology worthy of patent protection, and
- review of competitor IP to help steer client R&D direction.

## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Robert has extensive experience in mechanical, electrical and chemical industries, and specializes in the medical industry, including:

- medical fluid machines, such as hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, continuous renal replacement, intravenous drug delivery, syringe pump, and heart-lung machines,
- medical fluid pumps, such as volumetric, peristaltic, platen, gear and gravity-driven pumps,

- medical fluid heaters, such as inline, batch, resistive plate, inductive and radiant heaters and associated control,
- cardiovascular stents,
- catheters, connectors, medical fluid bags, pumping cassettes, tubing and other disposable items,
- solutions, concentrates and sorbent materials, and
- orthopedic devices, such as back braces, knee braces, neck braces, wraps, cold therapy units, and deep vein thrombosis devices.

Robert also specializes in electrical circuit protection, including:

- automotive protection,
- fuses,
- EMC components,
- polymer ESD suppression, and
- resettable PCT fuses.

Additionally, Robert specializes in gaming devices, including:

- slot machines and bonus games,
- poker, baccarat, keno and plinko games,
- games of perceived skill, and
- progressive games and gaming systems.

Robert also specializes in industrial gas and related technologies, including:

- inerting, combustion, oil refining, and steel making,
- cryogenic and ozone applications,
- tank design and onsite generation, and
- as an engineer for Air Liquide America Corporation, was awarded six US patents, and designed and installed equipment at large, high technology companies such as IBM, NEC, Sun Microsystems, AT&T, and Chrysler.

## PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- American Intellectual Property Association
- Federal Court Bar Association
- Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago

## EDUCATION

- J.D., Loyola University Chicago School of Law, 2000 (*cum laude*)
- B.S., Purdue University, 1989 (*mechanical engineering*)

## ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Illinois
- United States Patent and Trademark Office
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- IP Procurement and Portfolio Management
- IP Litigation
- Post-Grant Patents
- Technology Transactions and Sourcing