



William F. Abrams

MEMBER

SEATTLE

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SERVICES

Litigation & Dispute Resolution
 Antitrust & Consumer Protection
 Business
 Class Action Litigation
 Constitutional Law & Statutory Rights
 Employment & Labor
 Environmental Litigation
 Intellectual Property
 Intellectual Property Litigation
 Media, Entertainment & Games
 Privacy, Cybersecurity & Data Protection
 Sports Teams & Facilities
 Wine, Beer & Spirits

PRACTICE OVERVIEW

Bill is an experienced trial and appellate lawyer and advisor to technology and other businesses. He has been lead counsel in nearly 100 federal and state patent, trade secret and other intellectual property cases since 2000, including trials, arbitrations and appeals involving trade secrets, interference, unfair competition, false advertising, licensing, patent infringement, defamation, privacy and trademarks. He represents public and private companies, start-ups and emerging companies, and individuals in industries including software, hardware, internet and media, artificial intelligence, higher education and research, artificial intelligence, satellite and space, life sciences, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, cryptocurrencies and blockchain, financial institutions and telecommunications.

Bill also maintains an active pro bono practice. His cases have involved representation of death row inmates, wrongful convictions, special education, foster care, First Amendment issues, Second Amendment and firearm regulation, privacy, prison conditions, affirmative action, asylum, adoption, immigration and civil rights.

Bill is recognized by the highly regarded *Chambers USA* legal directory and described as “frankly brilliant at what he does; he finds the fight his client can fight, and performs very well.”

Bill is member of the Stanford faculty, where he has taught courses on Science, Innovation and the Law; Justice, Science and Policy Making; The Death Penalty; Children, Youth and the Law; Courage; and Sex and the Law since 1996.

REPRESENTATIVE WORK – Trade Secret

- Counsel for public companies regarding trade secret and IP policies, legal and best practice compliance, and training and auditing of practices.
- Represented E. & J. Gallo Winery in a trade secret action against European defendants who had misappropriated trade secrets for fruit processing technology.*
- Represented SK Hynix in trade secret litigation alleging the misappropriation of trade secrets regarding NAND flash memory manufacturing processes.*

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- Represented Hewlett-Packard in trade secret/breach of NDA and breach of contract case brought by HP's vendor of anti-counterfeiting services and software, including employee raiding allegations. Case settled on the eve of trial after a week of mediations. *

REPRESENTATIVE WORK – Patent

- Represented Google in case alleging infringement of patents for software for updating Chrome browser. Bill led a team that won in the trial court and in the Federal Circuit.*
- Represented Google in consolidated cases alleging that Google infringed more than 20 patents related to location technology used by Google Maps. Numerous patents were declared invalid during claim construction, and cases settled before trial.*
- Represented Alere Medical in consolidated cases in which Health Hero, a Bosch subsidiary, alleged that Alere infringed more than 20 patents. Case settled favorably for Alere Medical before trial.*

REPRESENTATIVE WORK – Trademark and False Advertising

- Represented Stanford University in actions against Stanford Financial for false advertising, Lanham Act and trademark infringement for unauthorized use by a corrupt investment company that was using the Stanford name, colors and logo to lead people to believe that the company was affiliated with or endorsed by Stanford. During the civil case, the principal of Stanford Financial was arrested and convicted for numerous fraud violations.*
- Represented defendant SharkNinja in false advertising and Lanham Act action brought by competitor selling blenders. Case settled shortly before trial.*

REPRESENTATIVE WORK – Internal Investigations and Advice

- Ongoing advice to emerging companies regarding their artificial intelligence business.
- Ongoing advice to emerging company regarding its cryptocurrency, bitcoin and blockchain business.
- Ongoing advice to start-up companies on business formation, freedom to operate and intellectual property protection.*
- Ongoing advice to university on First Amendment and intellectual property issues.
- Counsel in an internal investigation for computer hardware company regarding allegations that its employees misappropriated trade secrets of a competitor.*
- Counsel in an internal investigation for hardware/chip company of theft of trade secrets and employee poaching by a competitor.*
- Ongoing advice to software, hardware and other technology companies on trade secret and confidential information matters, including trade secret compliance and management policies, employment policies and intellectual property protection.

REPRESENTATIVE WORK – International Arbitration

- Lead counsel in an ICC arbitration under New York law regarding claims of trade secret misappropriation and breach of NDAs between two major competitors in the life sciences industry. Case was arbitrated to decision by panel of three ICC neutrals after two years of litigation and several weeks of arbitration.*
- Lead counsel in a confidential arbitration under New York law regarding claims of trade secret misappropriation, breach of contract and unfair competition between competitors in the telecommunications and aerospace industry. Case settled after a year of litigation before a single ICC arbitrator.*

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REPRESENTATIVE WORK – Constitutional and Public Interest

- Counsel for person abused during police detention in *Shorter v. Baca*, in which Ninth Circuit reversed jury verdict for Sheriff and rejected use of jury instructions giving deference to government. Click [here](#) for oral argument.*
- Counsel for City of Seattle upholding challenge by NRA to tax on sales of firearms and ammunition. Click [here](#) for oral argument.*

**Denotes experience completed at a prior firm.*

RECOGNITION

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®
 - + *Best Lawyers*® 2019 Technology law “Lawyer of the Year” in Seattle
 - + Technology, 2014-2019
 - + Litigation – Intellectual Property, 2019
 - + Litigation – Patent, 2019
- Washington Super Lawyers list, 2018
- *Chambers USA*
 - + Intellectual Property (Washington), 2018
 - + Intellectual Property: Trademark, Copyright & Trade Secrets (California), 2011-2013; 2015-2017
 - + Intellectual Property: Patent (California), 2006-2007
- *The Legal 500 US*, Litigation: Commercial Litigation; Intellectual Property: Patent Litigation - Full Coverage; Intellectual Property: Trade Secrets, 2016-2017
- *Daily Journal's* "Top Intellectual Property Attorneys in California," 2009-2014, 2016-2017
- *IAM Patent 1000*
 - + Litigation: Washington, 2018
 - + Litigation: California, 2014-2017
- *Managing Intellectual Property's* "Stars" in California, 2013-2017
- Northern California Super Lawyers list, 2004-2017
- “Silicon Valley’s Top 300 Lawyers” and “Silicon Valley’s Top Legal Eagles,” *San Jose Magazine*, 2001-2013
- “Top 100 Lawyers in California,” *Daily Journal*, 2010
- CLAY Award, *California Lawyer Magazine*, 2010
- John J. Curtin Jr. Public Service Award, 2009

ACTIVITIES

- Southern Center for Human Rights, Board of Directors
- Youth Law Center, Board of Directors, Chair of Audit Committee
- Stanford Law School Center for the Legal Profession, Advisory Board

QUOTED

- “[Court: Los Angeles County Sheriff to Face New Civil Trial Over Shackling Female Inmate](#),” NBC 4, July 2018
- “New Uber GC Needs Board Cooperation and Support, Experts Say,” *Daily Journal*, November 2017
- “U.S. Appellate Court Says Patent Infringement Can Repeat Venue Change Request,” *Daily Journal*, November 2017

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PUBLICATIONS

- “Patent Litigation Means Teaching Hypertechnical Topics,” Author, *Daily Journal*, January 2017
- “Breaking Down the New Defend Trade Secrets Act,” Steptoe & Johnson Client Newsletter, May 2016

PRESENTATIONS

- [“Patent Trial Best Practices: What Do Judges Really Want?”](#), Co-Chair and Moderator, *Daily Journal’s* 2018 Patent Dispute Forum, April 2018
- “Patent Disputes Forum South,” Speaker, *Daily Journal*, December 2017
- “Trade Secret Adjudication,” Speaker, Federal Circuit Bar Association’s Annual Bench & Bar Conference, June 2017
- “Patent Disputes Forum North,” Co-Chair and Speaker, *California Lawyer* April 2017
- “Patent Trial Best Practices: Judge and Bar Perspectives,” Speaker, *Patent Disputes Forum South*, October 2016

EXPERIENCE

- Foster Pepper PLLC, Member, 2018-Present
- Stanford University, various positions including Consulting Professor, Adjunct Professor, Instructor, 1996-Present
- Steptoe & Johnson LLP, Managing Partner Palo Alto and San Francisco Offices, 2014-2018
- Bingham McCutchen
 - + Managing Partner, 2007-2011 Silicon Valley Office, Co-Chair Intellectual Property Practice Group, 2007-2011

BAR ADMISSIONS

- California
- U.S. District Court
 - + Central District of California
 - + Eastern District of California
 - + Northern District of California
 - + Southern District of California
 - + Eastern District of Michigan
 - + Eastern District of Texas
- 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- United States Supreme Court

EDUCATION

- J.D., Santa Clara University School of Law
- A.B. with Honors, Stanford University