

RICHARD D. WATKINS

1408 Carr Ave
Memphis, TN 38104

Home: 901 866-9613
Cell: 267 693-8451
Email: richwatkins@mac.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Medtronic

Sr. Principal Legal Counsel

Memphis, TN

March 2014 - Present

- Drafting, negotiating, and managing drafting of enterprise wide contracts related to technology and data analytics services and artificial intelligence solutions; and advising business leaders on risk mitigation of the same
- Drafted and negotiated IP related agreements such as licensing, technology and business acquisition, and divestures. Conduct IP due diligence, IP valuation, & risk mitigation in the fields of pain management, spinal access devices, bone materials, and biologics
- Created periodic patent strategy sessions with business partners to discuss status of product development, IP protection, business development, and monetization efforts
- Managed Patent portfolio for two business groups, involving harvesting disclosures from R&D partners, coordinating with domestic and international counsel on filings
- Lead enterprise wide working groups to educate and train IP legal and commercial legal on leading edge IP legal issues

Micro Enhanced Technology, Inc.

Intellectual Property Counsel

Elk Grove Village, Illinois

November 2012-October-2013

- Responsible for leading in-house IP litigation efforts including management of outside counsel, development of comprehensive offensive and defensive litigation strategy.
- Responsible for post-allowance patent management as well as IP portfolio management including electro-mechanical locking devices and dual microprocessor access systems.
- Responsible for IP portfolio management and market awareness to determine future IP protection
- Drafted licenses for commercialization of portfolio and managed relations between existing licensees
- Established trade secret protection guidelines for computer and source codes

Watkins Law, P.C.

Principal Shareholder

Chicago, Illinois

July 2010-November 2012

- Lead counsel in litigation involving fraud, negligence, and breach of contract against multiple defendants including Fortune 500 company; conducted settlement talks with same
- Patent prosecution and IP client counseling, including portfolio management and freedom to operate analysis
- Managed song clearance for use in national advertising campaign
- Trademark prosecution and commercial consultation on music royalties

Documentaries to Inspire Social Change, NFP

Chief Operating Officer

Chicago, Illinois

February 2010-February 2012

Board Member

October 2008-February 2012

- Co-founded company to produce documentary that was accepted to Africa World Documentary Festival 2012

- Managed outside counsel’s preparation of video release forms, prepared and filed incorporation documents, drafted by-laws, conducted board and strategy meetings, organized grant writing logistics and corporate funding campaigns, tracked donations

Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione

Chicago, Illinois

Associate

September 2005-February 2010

- Drafted freedom to operate opinions and trade secret policies including invalidity opinion for Fortune 500 petroleum company later used to invalidate patents in ongoing litigation
- Led expert report drafting for patent infringement litigation which was accepted over opposing expert report at trial; defended and led expert testimony during deposition and trial
- Engaged in patent litigations in the areas of medical and mechanical devices, wireless technology, internet search algorithms, print inspection systems, cellular technology, and ANDA/paragraph IV
- Lead domestic and foreign discovery efforts involving German based corporations
- Performed domestic and foreign patent prosecution for medical devices and counseling clients on portfolio building and maintenance
- Portfolio management for domestic and foreign patent applications
- Negotiated and drafted licensing agreements as a part of settlement talks
- Member of Hiring Committee in 2006-2010, Marketing Committee in 2006-2007, Litigation Subcommittee 2006-2010, part of prosecution, litigation, and ITC practice groups

Woodcock Washburn, LLP

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Associate

September 2000-August 2005

Summer Associate

May 1999-August 1999

- Performed domestic and foreign patent prosecution for medical devices, biotechnology, diagnostic methods, and nanotechnology; also drafted appeal briefs and conducted examiner interviews
- Portfolio management for domestic and foreign patent applications and due diligence analysis for startup companies
- Preparing freedom to operate opinion and due diligence studies for start up companies associated with local Ivy League university, as well as, portfolio management
- Engaged in patent litigation involving oxygen scavenging plastic containers

PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- Admitted to practice in Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Northern District of Illinois, USPTO
- Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago, American Bar Association, American Intellectual Property Association, Chicago Bar Association
- Associate Board for the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Firms - Associate Board member 2008-10

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Board President, Lynching Sites Project Memphis, 2021-22; Board Member 2020-Present; Project Committee Chair 2019-20
- President, Memphis Area Morehouse College Alumni Association, 2015-17
- President, Chicago Area Morehouse College Alumni Association, 2013-14; Secretary 2011-13
- Chairperson of Legal Council Ministry at Covenant United Church of Christ 2008-12

EDUCATION

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

Washington, DC

Juris Doctor

May 2000

- Coach, Lefkowitz Moot Court Team, 1999-2000 (1st Place Regional, 2nd Place National)
- Member, Frederick Douglass Moot Court Team, 1999 (Mid-Atlantic Regional Best Oralist & Team Oralist; Mid-Atlantic Regional 2nd Place Team, National Competition Runner-up Best Brief, National Competition 4th Place Team).
- Student Counsel, Georgetown Appellate Litigation Clinic (argued *Salazar v. Ballesteros*, 2001 U.S. App. Lexis 19183 (4th Cir. 2001) and co-drafted amicus brief in *Rhoads v. FDIC*, 27 F.3d 373 (4th Cir. 2001))
- Co-Author, "Rio Case Oks Carnival of Music Copying," *The National Law Journal*, Oct. 18, 1999

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

Atlanta, Georgia

Bachelor of Science, magna cum laude, with honors in Chemistry

May 1997

- C.M. and Y.E. Yang Award in Chemistry (departmental honors), 1997
- President, Golden Key National Honor Society
- Laboratory Technician, DuPont Specialty Chemicals, Summer 1996 (researched polyester production)

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- "Enforcing IP Rights in the ITC," co-author, *World Intellectual Property Review* 2007, at 48.
- "Tips for European Companies: Selecting A Forum For U.S. Litigation: U.S. International Trade Commission v. Federal District Court," Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione Seminar, Munich, Germany, June 21, 2008

REPRESENTATIVE LEGAL MATTERS

Available upon request