

Richard Torczon

SENIOR COUNSEL

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FOCUS AREAS

Intellectual Property
Life Sciences
Litigation
Patent Litigation
Post-Grant Review
Supreme Court and
Appellate

EXPERIENCE

Richard Torczon is senior counsel in the Washington, D.C., office of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where he is a member of the patent litigation practice.

Prior to joining the firm, Richard was an Administrative Patent Judge at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), where, since 1996, he worked on patent interferences and appeals. During his tenure at the PTAB, he wrote more than a thousand opinions and orders on patent appeals, petitions, motions, and briefs. Richard was an early member of the interference trial section and authored many of the PTAB's rules. He has experience in the full spectrum of technologies reviewed by the PTAB, including computer-based inventions, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and medical devices, and plant and design patents.

Before serving as a judge, Richard was an associate solicitor in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO's) Office of the Solicitor, where he represented the USPTO on patent and trademark matters, particularly before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Additionally, Richard was an Honors Attorney at the U.S. Department of Commerce, and prior to joining the government, he worked at the Adachi International Patent Law firm in Nagoya, Japan.

Richard has testified before Congress about the board and has spoken on board-related topics, legal ethics, and effective arguments at programs for numerous organizations, including the American Bar Association, the American Intellectual Property Law Association, and the PTAB Bar Association.

CREDENTIALS

Education

- J.D., University of Texas School of Law
- M.S., Biotechnology, Johns Hopkins University
- B.A., Computer Science, Rice University

Admissions

- Bar of the District of Columbia
- State Bar of Texas
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- U.S. Supreme Court

INSIGHTS

Select Publications

- *It Matters: A Former Administrative Patent Judge's Take on Arthrex*, IP Watchdog, November 11, 2019

- Co-author with B. Stoner, Jr., N. Linck, and C. Spiegel, *Post-Grant Patent Practice*, Second Edition, Bloomberg BNA, 2014, with 2016 supplement

Select Speaking Engagements

- Panelist, “Challenging Patents at the PTAB: Examining Policies, Procedures, and Practice Tips for PIV Practitioners,” 21st Annual Conference on Paragraph IV Disputes, April 2025
- Panelist, “Prior Art & AI,” PTAB Bar Association Annual Conference, March 2025
- Moderator, “Impact of *Amgen v. Sanofi* on Disclosure and Enablement Determinations,” PTAB Bar Association 2023 Thought Leader Summit, October 2023
- Panelist, “Berkeley/GW Law Roundtable on USPTO Post-Grant Rules Package,” June 2023
- Witness, *Testimony* before the House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, July 21, 2022
- Panelist, “Protecting IP and Litigating into Uncertainty: Challenges from Sections 101 and 112 in the Life Sciences,” Berkeley Advanced Life Sciences Institute, April 2022
- Panelist, “FDA-PTO Roundtable,” George Washington Law School event, Washington, D.C., January 2022