Aaron E. Johnston

Attorney

Richmond

aaron.johnston@troutman.com

D 804.697.1268



OVERVIEW

Aaron routinely advises clients on a variety of intellectual property matters, including patent prosecution, patent litigation, and strategic portfolio management. He is well-versed in many fields, including fintech, payment systems, imaging, machine learning, and automotive technologies. Aaron supports clients in navigating IP challenges across the business cycle, from preparing new patent applications to conducting invalidity and freedom to operate investigations.

Prior to his legal career, Aaron studied biomechanics and biomaterials in college. He was also involved in the creation of two startup companies — one in the medical device industry and the other being a manufacturer of custom automotive drivetrain parts.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Managed domestic and foreign IP portfolios for clients in different technological sectors.
- Advised businesses on patent protection strategies and designing around competitors' patent assets to facilitate new product launches.
- Participated in investigations and evaluations to challenge the validity of patents in support of litigation.
- Provided strategic recommendations for patent applications in view of competitor activity.
- Supported clients by providing invalidity and freedom to operate opinions.
- Managed prosecution of design patents in both domestic and foreign jurisdictions.

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Intellectual Property
- Patent Prosecution, Counseling + Portfolio Management

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Automotive

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- Financial Services
- Intellectual Property
- Patent Prosecution, Counseling + Portfolio Management
- Payments + Financial Technology

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- Wake Forest University School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2021
- University of Florida, M.S., 2017, biomedical engineering
- University of Florida, B.S., *cum laude*, 2016, biomedical engineering

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Virginia
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "AI Will Transform Patent Examination for the Better," *Law360*, October 7, 2025.
- Co-author, "AI's Impact on Patent Examination: A Forward-Looking Perspective," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, September 29, 2025.
- Co-author, "Traversing Restriction Requirements: A Quick Reference Guide," *Westlaw Today*, July 14, 2023.