Celeste K. Walker

Associate

Richmond

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Celeste provides intellectual property counseling to clients across a wide range of industries. Her thorough approach and extensive scientific background are an asset to clients as they protect and monetize their IP assets.

OVERVIEW

Celeste advises clients on intellectual property matters, including patent prosecution and litigation strategies, IP portfolio management, and business transactions. With an extensive background in chemical engineering, software, and medical technologies, she is experienced in diverse areas such as software, payment systems, network security, mechanical devices, medical devices, chemical compositions, and industrial processing. Celeste helps clients throughout the business cycle, preparing and prosecuting patent applications, conducting patentability and freedom to operate assessments, and drafting transactional agreements.

Celeste maintains an active pro bono practice. In addition to representing clients in family law cases, she serves on a team representing a client in partnership with the Pennsylvania Innocence Project.

Before her legal career, Celeste worked in the chemicals manufacturing industry.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Managed IP portfolios for multiple clients across diverse technological sectors.
- Advised a *Fortune* 500 company on strategically acquiring patent assets to align with and enhance their business goals.
- Advised businesses on patent protection strategies and designing around competitors' patent assets to facilitate potential new product launches.
- Conducted intellectual property evaluations and due diligence for a buyer-side corporate transaction.
- Led investigations and evaluations to challenge the validity of patents in support of litigation.

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Intellectual Property
- Patent Litigation

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- Patent Prosecution, Counseling + Portfolio Management

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Board member, Richmond IP & Tech Forum
- Virginia Bar Association (VBA)
- Greater Richmond Intellectual Property Law Association (GRIPLA)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Operations and production supervisor, process engineer, Ashland Specialty Ingredients, 2013-2017

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of Richmond School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2020, member, *University of Richmond Law Review;* Moot Court Board; Trial Advocacy Board; Client Counseling and Negotiation Board
- University of Virginia, B.S., *with distinction*, 2013, chemical engineering

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Virginia
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

COURT ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of Virginia

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "Design Patents: Navigating Prosecution and Litigation Trends to Draft the Best Application," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, October 30, 2025.
- Co-author, "Winning an *Ex Parte* Appeal: Part II – Appeal Brief and Board Stages," *Intellectual Property & Technology Law Journal*, November-December 2021.
- Co-author, "Winning an *Ex Parte* Appeal: Part I – Pre-Appeal and Notice of Appeal Stages," *Intellectual Property & Technology Law Journal*, October 2021.

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