James E. Schutz

Partner

Atlanta

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Jim is a technology attorney whose practice focuses on intellectual property protection, technology licensing, and strategic counseling. He has broad experience developing IP strategies, including preparing and prosecuting a wide range of patent applications and drafting and negotiating technology, IP, and software agreements.

OVERVIEW

Jim counsels clients on the protection, licensing, and enforcement of intellectual property rights and has extensive experience in patent litigation and prosecution. Jim also regularly counsels clients on technology development and licensing agreements, with an emphasis on software products, and counsels clients on corporate deals requiring the analysis of intellectual property assets and technology.

Jim represents clients in a variety of industries, including computer software and hardware, computer networks, wireless communication systems, telecommunications devices, semiconductor chips, medical devices, and industrial manufacturing machinery.

Jim is actively involved in the Atlanta Startup Community. He represents several startup companies, and has given lectures on various intellectual property topics to numerous organizations including NASA's Langley Research Center, ATDC, Flashpoint, AUTM, IEEE, Morehouse School of Medicine's Tech Talks, Startup Weekend, Startup Chicks, and numerous student groups at Georgia Tech.

Jim holds both a bachelors and masters degree in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Tech and is experienced in hardware and software design. Jim is a frequent lecturer on intellectual property topics and is an adjunct instructor at Georgia Tech. Jim was recognized by *Best Lawyers* since 2014 and has also been recognized as a "Super Lawyer" and as a "Rising Star" in the field of intellectual property law by *Law & Politics* and *Atlanta Magazine*.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Patent Prosecution and Portfolio Management:
  Manages and provides counseling for client portfolios and prosecutes foreign and domestic utility and design patent applications for inventions in the telecommunication, electronics, computer hardware/software, and mechanical arts.
- Software:
  Prepares and negotiates agreements concerning software development and licensing. Jim has negotiated software license agreements involving business enterprise software solutions for a variety of clients with

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numerous large software providers and integrators including Oracle, SAP, and BearingPoint.

- Licensing:
  Prepares and negotiates licensing agreements for patents, trademarks, and general technology.
- Transactional:
  Prepares contracts and agreements, including software development agreements, product development agreements, employee agreements, consulting agreements, confidentiality and non-compete agreements, employee handbooks, and corporate intellectual property policies. Jim also regularly consults on large corporate deals, including mergers and acquisitions, involving technology companies and intellectual property rights issues.
- Technology Law:
  Works with large and small companies, including startups, to protect intellectual property, develop licensing and IP strategies, prepare and negotiate software and technology development and licensing agreements, obtain venture capital, provide consultation on intellectual property issues regarding merger and acquisition deals, and consult on privacy, data rights and information management issues.
- Opinions:
  Prepares non-infringement opinions in the areas of telecommunications, electronics, and software. Performs product evaluations for infringement of patents by clients' competitors.
- Patent Litigation:
  Litigates and provides advice concerning disputes in federal trial and appellate courts involving patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, and other intellectual property and technology related claims.

AWARDS

- *Legal 500 United States*: Intellectual Property: Patents: Prosecution (Including Re-Examination and Post-Grant Proceedings) (2026), M&A/Corporate and Commercial: Venture Capital and Emerging Companies (2026)
- *Chambers USA*: Intellectual Property, Georgia (2026)
- *IAM Patent 1000*: Individuals: Prosecution: Recommended (2023-2026)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®: Intellectual Property (2014-2015), Patent Law (2015-2027), and Litigation – Intellectual Property (2023-2027)
- *Atlanta Super Lawyers* (2013-2016)
- *Georgia Law & Politics* and *Atlanta Magazine*, "Rising Star" (2005-2007, 2009-2012)
- Registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Emerging Companies + Venture Capital
- Intellectual Property
- Patent Prosecution, Counseling + Portfolio Management
- Payments + Financial Technology

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Academic + Research Institutions
- Business Litigation
- Data Centers
- Digital Assets + Blockchain
- Educational Institutions
- Emerging Companies + Venture Capital

- Energy
- Financial Services
- Intellectual Property
- Litigation + Trial
- Patent Litigation
- Patent Prosecution, Counseling + Portfolio Management
- Payments + Financial Technology
- Privacy + Cyber
- Private Equity
- Real Estate Technology
- Renewable Energy
- Technology
- Trademark + Copyright

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Georgia State Bar (Member, Intellectual Property Law and Computer Law sections)
- Village Advisor, Atlanta Tech Village (January 2024 – June 2024)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Adjunct instructor of Intellectual Property Law, Georgia Institute of Technology, School of Public Policy (2003-present)
- Engineer, Georgia Tech Research Institute, 1997
- Graduate research engineer, Georgia Tech Research Institute, 1996-1997
- Co-op engineer, Georgia Tech Research Institute, 1991-1996
- Registered patent attorney

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of Georgia School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2000
- Georgia Institute of Technology, M.S.E.E., 1997
- Georgia Institute of Technology, B.E.E., *with high honor*, 1996

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Georgia
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "Bots, Boards & Breaches: Board Governance in the Age of AI," Private Directors Association Atlanta Chapter, May 12, 2026.

- Speaker, “Navigating the IP Landscape: Intellectual Property Issues, Strategies, and Management for In-House Counsel,” Troutman Pepper Webinar, October 25, 2023.
- Speaker, “Do We Need an NDA for This?,” SBDC@UCI Beall Applied Innovation Incubator, July 22, 2021.
- Speaker, “Internet of Things: Security, Privacy, and IP Considerations,” SBDC@UCI Bell Applied Innovation Incubator, May 20, 2021.

PUBLICATIONS

- Podcast, “5G Connected Future Incubator Podcast,” March 20, 2023.
- Co-author, “Deadline for New UK Contract Requirements for Personal Data Transfers Is Here (EU and California Deadlines Looming)!,” *Troutman Pepper*, September 27, 2022.
- Co-author, “Technology Escrow in Lending: How to Salvage Value After Default,” *Intellectual Property Today*, June 2013, at 26.