John A. Morrissett

Partner

Richmond

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John focuses his intellectual property practice on patent portfolio management and strategic growth, client counseling, prosecution, litigation, and post-grant proceedings, though he also has experience with a wide variety of licensing, due diligence, and corporate acquisition matters.

OVERVIEW

John manages and strategically grows several large domestic and foreign patent portfolios for various electrical and mechanical technologies, including those used in payment systems and digital currency, network security, augmented and virtual reality, imaging, computer hardware and software, communication systems, rotational molding and other industrial manufacturing equipment, engines and fuel systems, automotive and heavy equipment vehicles, biomedical devices, and consumer products. He has drafted or overseen the drafting of hundreds of patent applications, as well as their subsequent prosecution. He counsels clients from product development through patenting and patent assertion. He has also overseen the intellectual property aspects of several strategic acquisitions and sales.

John has worked on several *inter partes* review (IPR) proceedings. He developed offensive and defensive strategies, prepared written submissions (from petitions and supporting declarations through motions and slide decks for oral hearings) and assisted with preparing technical experts for deposition and other discovery issues.

John's district court experience includes every phase of litigation, from filing of the complaint to trial. He prepares noninfringement and invalidity positions, assists with fact discovery and preparation of fact and expert witnesses, drafts substantive briefings, and leads negotiations with opposing counsel. As part of managing discovery, he has also overseen and coordinated a large document review involving multiple law firms.

Prior to law school, John tested error correction methods for communication and radar systems at the Naval Surface Warfare Center. He was also involved in technical projects relating to website and database design and development, value stream mapping, quality control, ergonomic design, operations research, manufacturing, and construction (electrical, plumbing, concrete, and brickwork). He is familiar with computer programming languages such as C, C++, PHP, HTML, Java, and SQL, and has entry-level Cisco certification in networking.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Managed the preparation and prosecution of more than 150 patent applications as part of a strategic growth project to build a patent portfolio having defensive and monetization value for a *Fortune* 500 technology

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company.

- Counseled, from initial discussions through closing, an industrial manufacturing client on the intellectual property aspects of its acquisition by another company, largely based on its patent portfolio, for more than $100 million.
- Represented a client that manufactures electrical consumer products in a dispute involving multiple IPR proceedings and district court litigations, including developing noninfringement and invalidity strategies and determining potential design-around options.
- Counseled a baby products manufacturer regarding potential weaknesses in its existing patent portfolio and expeditiously prepared and prosecuted patent applications to target a major competitor, leading to a favorable settlement of more than $1 million.
- Oversaw and coordinated a multifirm team for a large document review, as part of district court litigation on behalf of an eyewear company, and counseled the client regarding discovery issues and a patent misuse defense, leading to a favorable settlement.

AWARDS

- *Legal 500 United States*: Intellectual Property: Patents: Prosecution (Including Re-Examination and Post-Grant Proceedings) (2026)
- *Chambers USA:* Intellectual Property Law, Southern Virginia (2023-2026)
- *Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch:* Intellectual Property Law (2021-2025), Litigation – Intellectual Property (2021-2025)
- *Managing Intellectual Property*, Rising Star, IP Stars (2025-2026)
- *Super Lawyers:* “Rising Star” Virginia (2021)
- Award for Excellence in Intellectual Property, American Bar Association
- *Virginia Business:* “Legal Elite,” Intellectual Property Law (2019, 2021-2023)
- Honors, Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, D.C. Access to Justice Commission and the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center (2024)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Intellectual Property
- Litigation + Trial
- Patent Litigation

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Intellectual Property
- Litigation + Trial
- Patent Litigation
- Patent Prosecution, Counseling + Portfolio Management

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Vice president, Greater Richmond Intellectual Property Law Association
- American Intellectual Property Law Association
- Virginia Bar Association (IP Section)
- American Bar Association

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Patent intern, Virginia Commonwealth University Tech Transfer Office, 2010-2011
- Engineering co-op, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division, 2006-2009

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of Richmond School of Law, J.D., *cum laude, John Marshall Scholar*, 2012, staff, *University of Richmond Law Review*; member, IP Moot Court Board
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, B.S., *cum laude*, 2009, industrial and systems engineering

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Virginia
- District of Columbia
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

COURT ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of Virginia

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, "New European Unitary Patent and Court," *Troutman Pepper*, May 8, 2023.
- Co-author, "Protecting the Protectors With Military Patents," *Specialty Fabrics Review*, October 2013.
- Co-author, "How Courts Consider Patent Injunction's Impact on Public," *Law360*, September 11, 2013.
- "Why Changing the Standard for Overcoming the Presumption of Patent Validity Will Cause More Harm Than Good," *Richmond Journal of Law & Technology*, 2012.
- Co-author, "UPS: Technology Asset Control System," Systems and Information Engineering Design Symposium, 2009.

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