Puja Patel Lea

Partner

Atlanta

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Puja is a proven litigator whose practice focuses on intellectual property disputes and related strategic counseling. She partners with clients to craft creative litigation and related business strategies to achieve client goals.

OVERVIEW

Puja counsels clients on a wide range of intellectual property litigation matters, including patent, trademark, and copyright litigation throughout the nation's courts. She has served as first-chair litigation counsel in high-stakes matters, and her experience spans the breadth of appellate practice, jury trials, bench trials, and dispositive motions practice. She has significant experience litigating in Delaware, Texas, California, Georgia, Virginia, New York, New Jersey, and Tennessee courts.

Within the patent space, Puja has specific experience in various technological fields, including consumer electronics, semiconductors, telecommunications, and software. Puja is experienced in crafting winning strategies in parallel proceedings, including district court litigation and *inter partes* review proceedings, in addition to Section 337 investigations at the International Trade Commission.

Puja is currently on faculty as an adjunct professor of Intellectual Property Law at Georgia Institute of Technology.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Patent Matters

- Served as lead defense counsel for a global leader and manufacturer of electronic devices in patent litigation matters in various courts around the nation.
- Defended a flooring company accused of infringing various patents relating to floor locking and composition technology, which resulted in many patent claims being found invalid at the *Markman* stage and subsequent settlement.
- Defended a consumer research and data analytics company in a competitor suit, which resulted in the grant of an early motion to dismiss based on a Section 101 challenge and an affirmance on appeal by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.
- Defended a manufacturer of semiconductor substrates in two Section 337 investigations at United States International Trade Commission, including one involving the ITC's 100-day early disposition program, which resulted in a favorable settlement.

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- Served as plaintiff's counsel for a ceramic grinding media manufacturer in a competitor suit, resulting in a jury verdict of willful infringement and an award of attorney fees, affirmed on appeal by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.
- Represented a foreign government research organization in *inter partes* reviews relating to semiconductor technology, resulting in favorable settlement.
- Served as counsel for the world's largest designer and manufacturer of seasonal decorative products in a competitor dispute involving two multipatent infringement lawsuits, *inter partes* review proceedings before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, and related appeals before the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Trademark Matters

- Defended a retail pharmacy chain from claims of trademark infringement, which resulted in a favorable early settlement.
- Served as plaintiff's counsel for an automobile association in a suit alleging common law trademark infringement, unfair competition, and false designation of origin, which resulted in a favorable settlement after summary judgment.
- Represented a flooring company in a series of competitor trademark infringement cases, which resulted in favorable global settlement of all claims after rulings on cross-motions for summary judgment.

Copyright Matters

- Served as plaintiff's trial counsel for an artist plaintiff in a copyright infringement suit, obtaining a jury verdict of infringement and granting disgorgement of defendants' profits.

AWARDS

- *IAM Patent 1000*: Individuals: Litigation: Bronze (2023); Silver (2024-2026)
- *Best Lawyers in America®:* Litigation – Intellectual Property (2020-2027); Litigation – Patent (2027)
- *Benchmark Litigation*: "40 & Under List" in Georgia (2018, 2021, 2023-2025)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Business Litigation
- Intellectual Property
- Patent Litigation
- Technology

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Business Litigation
- Health Care + Life Sciences Intellectual Property
- ITC Litigation
- Intellectual Property
- Litigation + Trial
- Patent Litigation
- Technology
- Trademark + Copyright

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Adjunct professor of Intellectual Property Law, Georgia Institute of Technology, School of Public Policy
- Member, Georgia Tech Intellectual Property Advisory Board
- Board of Directors, Children's Museum of Atlanta
- Board of Directors, Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce (2016)
- Board of Directors, Aurora Theatre (2015-2016)
- Barrister, Bleckley Inn of Court (2013-2014)

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of Georgia School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2009, articles editor and editorial board member, *Georgia Law Review*
- Georgia Institute of Technology, B.S., *with highest honors*, 2006

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Georgia

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia
- Supreme Court of Georgia
- Court of Appeals of Georgia

LANGUAGES

- Hindi
- Gujarati

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, "When the CEO Calls," Troutman Pepper CLE Webinar, February 24, 2022.

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