HUSCH BLACKWELL



Mike Santonocito

SENIOR COUNSEL

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OVERVIEW

Mike is a patent attorney and former USPTO examiner who works with scientists, engineers, and researchers to protect their ideas and inventions.

With nearly two decades of experience, he has developed and executed global patent strategies and managed complex international patent portfolios for clients ranging from startups to Fortune 100 companies. He has personally drafted hundreds of patent applications and maintains a nearly 90% career allowance rate.

His work spans a broad range of technologies, including software, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, wireless communications (including 5G and Internet-of-Things), distributed and cloud computing, imaging devices and machine vision, augmented and virtual reality, display devices, and signal processing.

Mike's practice centers on patent preparation and prosecution, working closely with inventors from the earliest stages of development. He translates technical concepts into clear, effective patent applications and represents those inventions throughout prosecution before the USPTO.

Drawing on his experience as a former USPTO examiner, Mike understands how applications are evaluated and how to address examiner concerns effectively and efficiently. Clients value his ability to anticipate potential issues, identify weaknesses in office actions, and advocate for their inventions with credibility and precision.

Industries

Manufacturing
Technology
Transportation

Services

Intellectual Property
Intellectual Property Counseling
Patent Preparation & Prosecution
Technology Commercialization
Trade Secrets & Business Information Protection

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He chose patent law for its intersection of law and emerging technologies, and he continues to enjoy working with innovative, fast-moving fields. He is known for quickly understanding complex new subject matter and adapting across a wide range of disciplines throughout his practice.

Mike emphasizes the importance of considering intellectual property protection early in the innovation process. By engaging at the outset, he helps clients identify risks, make informed decisions, and ensure strong ideas are protected from the start.

Education

- J.D., DePaul University College of Law
  - Justinian Society of Lawyers of DePaul, Vice President
  - CALI Award, Trial Advocacy I
  - CALI Award, Advanced Trial Advocacy
  - CALI Award, Pre-Trial Civil Litigation Strategy
- B.S., Michigan State University
  - Physics
  - National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory, Nuclear Theory Group, Researcher
  - Introductory Physics I, Teaching Assistant
  - Computational Physics I & II, Teaching Assistant

Admissions

- Illinois
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Community Leadership

- Trash People®, Volunteer

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