HUSCH BLACKWELL



Eric J. Rakestraw

PARTNER

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OVERVIEW

Eric prepares and prosecutes patent applications across industries and around the globe.

He has experience preparing and successfully prosecuting patents involving polymers, pharmaceuticals, precision agriculture – such as treated seeds – and other emerging technologies. He assists clients in the technology, agribusiness, healthcare, manufacturing and cannabis industries, among others.

Eric holds a degree in chemical engineering, and has experience managing global patent portfolios for a number Fortune 500 multinational corporations in the chemical, biotechnology and agricultural technology fields. He has a deep knowledge of chemicals, such as polymers and coatings, pharmaceuticals, and agricultural chemicals, as well as their engineering and manufacturing process. Clients rely on his unique ability to navigate the nexus of scientific information, business demands and the law.

In addition to his patent issuance practice, Eric represents clients before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), counsels them and prepares opinions on a broad array of intellectual property matters including patent revocation, post-issuance proceedings, freedom-to-operate and patentability.

Eric also is an experienced intellectual property litigator, representing companies as both plaintiffs and defendants in claims of infringement, misuse, dilution and unfair competition. He handles all stages of litigation, and works closely with clients to

Industries

Manufacturing
Technology
Transportation

Services

Intellectual Property
Patent Preparation & Prosecution
Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution
Cannabis
Emerging Companies & Venture Capital
Alcohol Beverage

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understand their products and technologies in order to accurately convey the facts and the law to the court and juries.

Experience

- Aided client FlatWing Pharmaceuticals in demonstrating that 39 claims in 4 patents filed by competitor were unpatentable.
- Drafted and prosecuted patent applications for pharmaceutical manufacturer.
- Reviewed and analyzed chemical and pharmacological data for purpose of assessing noninfringement or invalidity positions.
- Developed discovery strategy and document review protocol and managed all aspects of discovery and document production in connection with complex patent infringement matter.

Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America®*
  - Litigation - Intellectual Property, 2025-2027
  - Litigation - Patent, 2024-2027
  - Patent Law, 2024-2027
- *The Legal 500*, Missouri Elite, Intellectual Property, 2026

Education

- J.D., Southern Illinois University School of Law
  - *summa cum laude*
  - *Journal of Legal Medicine*, Student Editor-in-Chief
  - Moot Court Board, Champion and Best Brief, 2008 intramural competition
- B.S., University of Missouri
  - Chemical Engineering

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Admissions

- Missouri
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Community Leadership

Eric is a volunteer with Ready Readers, an organization that promotes literacy by providing trained volunteers to read to preschoolers in underserved communities.



The Best Lawyers in America®

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