HUSCH BLACKWELL

Melaina Jobs

SENIOR COUNSEL

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OVERVIEW

Melaina secures patents and trademarks, protecting clients' intellectual property assets.

An engineering graduate with a passion for detail and analysis, Melaina began her career in finance, but her interest had been sparked by an undergrad law course. Intrigued by the idea of mixing her engineering background with the law through intellectual property work, she soon enrolled in law school.

Today, Melaina draws on nearly 15 years of experience with both patents and trademarks to manage IP portfolios for clients of all sizes. She's worked with clients whose global IP assets number in the thousands, as well as smaller and newer companies. Melaina regularly prepares and prosecutes both design and utility patent applications and trademark applications, prepares cease and desist letters, and analyzes infringement claims. She also has experience with IP matters in the context of mergers, acquisitions, and other corporate transactions, and she provides general counsel on IP strategy. Melaina is especially enthusiastic about helping clients secure patents for new technology, and she joined Husch Blackwell to grow this portion of her practice. She loves the intricate details of the new inventions developed by the firm's technology, manufacturing, and transportation clients.

Alongside her IP practice, Melaina also works with data privacy issues and is a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP). Thanks to the advancement of AI, the convergence of data privacy and cybersecurity with intellectual property is likely to grow, and Melaina looks forward to advising clients with needs and questions in this space.

Industries

Manufacturing
Technology
Transportation

Services

Intellectual Property
Intellectual Property Counseling
Patent Preparation & Prosecution

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In addition to her data privacy knowledge, Melaina is known simply for her responsiveness: her goal is always to help the client in any way possible, getting them the answers and connecting them with the resources they need.

Experience

- Prepared and prosecuted utility patent applications in the financial services, telecommunications, and small home appliance industries.
- Prepared and prosecuted design patent applications in the financial services, sports, apparel, and small home appliance industries including design applications for graphical user interfaces (GUIs).
- Prepared and prosecuted trademark applications.
- Managed foreign and domestic trademark and patent portfolios.
- Prepared intellectual property cease and desist letters and settlement agreements.
- Analyzed third party claims of intellectual property infringement and counsel clients regarding response strategy.
- Conducted and managed intellectual property due diligence in relation to corporate M&A.
- Conducted preliminary and comprehensive trademark searches and prepared formal and informal clearance opinions.
- Counseled foreign and domestic clients regarding U.S. patent and trademark law, process, and application filing strategies.
- Conducted freedom to operate and patentability assessments and prepared written opinions.
- Represented clients in patent and trademark infringement actions, conducted legal research, and prepared discovery requests and motions.

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Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers In America®*
  - Patent Law, 2027
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*
  - Intellectual Property Law, 2021-2023, 2025
- Thomson Reuters Illinois Super Lawyer
  - Intellectual Property 2020-2021
  - Rising Star, Intellectual Property, 2016-2019

Education

- J.D., University of Connecticut School of Law
  - with honors
  - Certificates in Intellectual Property Law and Tax Law
  - *Connecticut Journal of International Law*, Administrative Editor
- B.S., University of Virginia
  - Systems Engineering

Admissions

- Colorado
- Illinois
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

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Clerkships

- The Honorable David M. Borden and George D. Stoughton, Connecticut Appellate Court

Community Leadership

- Girls on the Run Chicago, Board of Directors, 2016–2019

HB In-House Participant 2024

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