

Michael P. Santonocito

Senior Counsel

Overview

A member of the firm's Intellectual Property Practice Group, Michael focuses primarily on the drafting and prosecution of patents in electrical and optical technologies. He has provided services to clients ranging from sole inventors to Fortune 500 corporations.

Michael has particular experience in technology related to smartphone hardware, especially displays and image sensors. He has worked extensively with OLED, LCD, and touch-sensing technologies for smartphone as well as television applications. His experience with image sensor includes lenses, signal-processing circuitry, and the sensors themselves.

Efficient and effective, he is quick to identify relevant IP issues and able to explain them in layman's terms. These abilities are especially valuable to his inventor-clients, with whom he frequently works to provide infringement, clearance, and patentability analyses.

Michael brings a valuable technical and IP background to his practice. He worked with the Nuclear Theory Group at the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory at Michigan State University while a student in physics there. He also served as a patent examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), where he focused on flat-screen displays, LED lighting and optical filters.

Experience

- Helped a manufacturer of telecom equipment gain a patent that it had been pursuing unsuccessfully for nine years. The patent was granted after an interview with the USPTO examiner and further amendments.
- Assisting a consumer electronics company with ongoing licensing negotiations involving patents with still-pending family members as well as with infringement dispute with competitor



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Practices

Intellectual Property
Patent

- Representing a consumer electronics company that is a member of an industry group requiring that “essential patents” must be freely licensed to other members. Drafted claims to avoid “essential patents” provision

Professional Activities

- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, IEEE Photonics Society
- Member, SPIE

Education

- DePaul University College of Law, Juris Doctor (J.D.), 2008
- Michigan State University, Bachelor of Science (B.S.), 2003; Physics

Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Illinois
- United States Patent and Trademark Office