



Kara K. Fairbairn

SENIOR COUNSEL

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Services

Intellectual Property

Patents

Life Sciences

Food & Agribusiness

Kara is an experienced patent attorney working with life science, medical device and biotechnology companies.

Kara helps life science, medical device, biotechnology and food science companies by creating global patent protection strategies that include obtaining global patent protection for their products, performing freedom-to-operate analyses on their products, attacking and designing around competitor patents, and enforcing their patents against competitors. She also has a specialty in working with genetic tests and medical diagnostic tests (in particular cancer diagnostic and genetic susceptibility tests using DNA identification methods).

Experience

- Representative medical diagnostic patent technologies include genetic tests (including tests using next generation sequencing methods), cancer diagnostic and genetic susceptibility tests, cancer treatment methods, blood control diagnostics, autoimmune diagnostics, gastric emptying and celiac disease breath test diagnostics and pulmonary disease diagnostics.
- Representative medical device technologies include drug delivery devices, surgical blankets, guidewires, hearing implants, delivery catheters, heart valves, intravascular ultrasound systems, vessel occluders, vascular probes, anastomotic blood vessel couplers, intravascular blood flow detection devices, blood vessel clamps, dermatology treatment devices, ear suction devices, cross-linked animal tissue for suture buttressing applications
- Representative biotech technologies include human and animal bacterial vaccines, stem cell and blood cord technology, immunoassays, dietary supplements, cancer drug pharmaceuticals.

Credentials

Education

- University of Nebraska College of Law, J.D., 2001
- University of New Hampshire School of Law, Franklin Pierce Center for IP, IP Summer Institute, 2000

- Pepperdine University, Biology, 1999

Admissions

- Minnesota, 2002
- U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, 2001

Civic & Professional

Professional Activities

- 3-Time Attendee of USPTO Design Day in Washington D.C.
- Women in Intellectual Property Law Association Committee, Co-Chair, 2013
- LifeScience Alley Organization Women's Roundtable, Member, 2012-2014
- American Intellectual Property Law Association
- Minnesota Intellectual Property Law Association

Community

- School Auction, St. Thomas More Catholic School, Co-Chair, 2015-present
- Can Do Canines, Former Board Member, 2006-2009

Legal Updates

Legal Update | 04.26.2016

Federal Circuit Strikes Another Blow Against Patentable Subject Matter in Biotechnology

Legal Update | 05.12.2014

Federal Circuit Court of Appeals Denies Patent on Cloned Animals to the Inventors of Dolly the Sheep

Legal Update | 03.06.2014

New USPTO Guidelines for Interpreting Patent Eligibility under Myriad and Prometheus Cases

Publications & Presentations

Speaker, University of Minnesota Biology Colloquium, September 2016

Co-Presenter, *Design Applications and the Hague System*, 2016 Midwest IP Institute, September 22-23, 2016

Co-Presenter, *Design Patent Law and Practicing Under the New Hague System*,
2015 Midwest IP Institute, September 17-18, 2015