



Kathryn M. Starshak

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Kathryn M. Starshak concentrates her practice in the area of intellectual property, particularly in the fields of trademark law and copyright law. She is experienced in all aspects of trademark clearance, prosecution, licensing, and enforcement.

Kathryn advises clients on global trademark portfolios and filing strategies. She manages global trademark portfolios for companies of all sizes from multi-national to startup companies, in a range of industries including the electronics, clothing, consulting, consumer products, educational training, gaming, publishing, and pharmaceutical industries. She also manages the trademark portfolios for local and global nonprofit organizations.

Kathryn regularly performs domestic and foreign trademark clearance, and has particular experience with large-scale global clearance projects for new brands. She also handles all aspects of trademark portfolio management, including filings, prosecution, and maintenance. She also represents clients in inter partes and ex parte proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board and counsels clients on a variety of infringement and enforcement matters including online issues such as domain name and social media disputes.

Kathryn also regularly negotiates and drafts intellectual property agreements, such as license, settlement, and coexistence agreements. Kathryn also counsels clients on due diligence matters in corporate transactions related to copyrights and trademarks.

Kathryn routinely provides advice to clients on proper trademark usage and reviews and clears marketing and advertising materials, websites, and packaging for clients.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Kathryn was a partner in the intellectual property department of Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLP prior to its combination with K&L Gates.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Recommended Lawyer for Trademarks: non-contentious (including prosecution, portfolio management and licensing), 2024

- Listed in the World's Leading Trademark Professionals by *World Trademark Review 1000*, 2020-2024
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Patent Law in Chicago, 2024

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- International Trademark Association
- Saul Lefkowitz Moot Court Competition Committee
- Chicago Bar Association
- Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago
- Chicago Bar Association Orchestra
- Adjunct Professor DePaul University College of Law (2010-2014)

EDUCATION

- J.D., DePaul University College of Law, 2002 (*summa cum laude*, *Order of the Coif*, *Notes and Comments Managing Editor*, *DePaul Law Review*)
- B.A., DePaul University, 1998

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Illinois
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "It's the End of the World as Musicians Know It, or Is It?: Artists Battle the Record Industry and Congress to Restore Their Termination Rights in Sound Recordings," *DePaul Law Review*, 2001.

NEWS & EVENTS

- 2 February 2026, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Recognized on *Thomson Reuters* Stand-out Lawyers List
- 29 January 2026, *World Trademark Review 1000* Recognizes K&L Gates IP Lawyers as Trademark Leaders in 2026 Edition
- 7 November 2025, K&L Gates Advises Carousel Capital on Recapitalization of CraneWorks
- 4 February 2025, *World Trademark Review 1000* Recognizes K&L Gates IP Lawyers as Trademark Leaders in 2025 Edition

- 14 February 2024, *World Trademark Review 1000* Recognizes K&L Gates, Lawyers as IP and Trademark Leaders in 2024 Edition
- 9 February 2023, K&L Gates, Lawyers Named as IP and Trademark Leaders in 2023 *World Trademark Review 1000* Rankings
- 15 March 2022, K&L Gates, Lawyers Named as IP and Trademark Leaders in 2022 *World Trademark Review 1000* Rankings
- 17 February 2021, K&L Gates, Lawyers Named as IP and Trademark Leaders in 2021 *World Trademark Review 1000* Rankings
- 18 February 2020, K&L Gates, Lawyers Named as IP and Trademark Leaders in 2020 *World Trademark Review 1000* Rankings

AREAS OF FOCUS

- IP Procurement and Portfolio Management
- Nonprofit Organizations

INDUSTRIES

- Apparel and Footwear
- Consumer Electronics
- Consumer Goods and Services
- Household Goods
- Sports IP

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Manage global intellectual property portfolios for companies of all sizes from multi-national to start-up companies, in a range of industries including the electronics, clothing, automotive, consulting, consumer products, educational training, gaming, publishing and pharmaceutical industries.
- Assist clients with takedown demands on social media platforms and the removal of fraudulent websites.
- Counsel clients on trademark and copyright enforcement matters.
- Obtain transfers of domain names from cybersquatters in Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution proceedings.
- Draft and negotiate trademark and copyright licenses.
- Handle intellectual property due diligence and agreement review in corporate transactions.

- Handle numerous successful opposition and cancellation proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.
- Manage large-scale global trademark clearance projects for new product launches and re-branding initiatives in multiple industries, including consumer products, food, and electronics.
- Manage trademark filings and branding initiatives for professional athletes, musicians and other individuals in the entertainment industry.