

Trade Secrets

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Protection — IpHorgan has advised clients on the manner and means for protecting their trade secrets and confidential business information against theft and unlawful disclosure. We have designed programs for internal implementation at client businesses and in client dealings with third parties. Our attorneys have assisted clients in determining when trade secret protection may be the most appropriate course of protection for certain business processes and procedures.

Enforcement — We have assisted clients in dealing with breaches of trade secret protection as well as with the unlawful disclosure and theft of confidential information.

Our Trade-Secrets Team

Dermot Horgan

Sean Swidler

Mark A. Niede

Michael L. Kenaga

Gary Saposnik

Our Trade-Secrets Team

Dermot Horgan works closely with a number of Global 500 corporations and with some of the largest privately-owned companies in the United States on various trade identity and trade secret issues. He also assists state government and medium-sized businesses. His day-to-day practice includes new-product roll-outs, establishment and acquisition of rights, maintenance, enforcement, trademark extensions and migration, local market considerations and global strategy. Dermot's experience covers a broad range of national and international trade identity, copyright, litigation, anti-counterfeiting and licensing aspects of intellectual property law as well as issues relating to the ownership and protection of confidential data. He has received national recognition for his skills, including being named for his outstanding service in a recent survey of General Counsel at the United States' largest corporations. Dermot earned his J.D. from DePaul College of Law, his Barrister-at-Law Degree from Kings Inns in Dublin and his BCL from University College Cork. He has been admitted to the Bars of Illinois, New York and the Trial Bar in the Republic of Ireland.

Sean Swidler concentrates on U.S. and international Patent, Trademark, Trade Secret and Copyright matters including prosecution of applications and related litigation in the federal and state courts, and in administrative proceedings in the United States Patent and Trademark Office. He has prosecuted a broad range of patents, including those for medical, mechanical and electro-mechanical devices along with software and business methods inventions. Sean is experienced in all phases of patent and trademark litigation and has spent time litigating patent claims associated with generic drug applications and medical devices, as well as trademark matters. Sean also assists clients in advertising and promotions matters, including addressing fair use and comparative advertising issues and legal requirements for running sweepstakes and contests. He is admitted to practice in Illinois and before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. He earned his undergraduate degree in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Iowa and his J.D. from the Chicago-Kent College of Law and regularly guest-lectures at Columbia College in Chicago on a number of marketing and advertising topics.

Mark A. Niede focuses on U.S. and International Trademark Clearance and Prosecution, Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Cancellations and Oppositions, Intellectual Property Litigation, Domain Name counseling, dispute resolution and other Internet-related matters, as well as Copyright and Unfair Competition matters. He has extensive experience in U.S. Trademark Clearance and Prosecution, with a particular emphasis on new-product roll-out, branding strategy and naming, working regularly with a number of large and small businesses, advertising and branding consultants on product naming and launch projects. Additionally, Mark has significant litigation experience in both the state and Federal Courts, as well as experience with Trademark Oppositions and Cancellations before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. He also drafts and consults clients regarding numerous IP-related licenses and contracts as well as IP-related due diligence matters associated with business transactions. Mark earned his J.D., with honors, from Chicago-Kent College of Law. He has a B.A. from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. He is a member of the Illinois Bar.

Michael L. Kenaga is the Director of Patents. He is a registered patent attorney and his 20 years of patent experience include advising and counseling on patentability and other protection options including Trade Secret Law, providing infringement opinions, and preparing, filing and prosecuting domestic and foreign patent applications in the electrical and mechanical arts for large and mid-sized corporations. He has substantial experience in IP due diligence in connection with potential acquisitions of companies and his practice includes license-agreement work and litigation support. Michael is a regular speaker and lecturer on issues related to US and foreign patent practice. He is an electrical engineer by training (BSEE) and prior to law school worked for a telecom company and for a military and government contractor. Michael is a member of the Chicago Bar Association, Chair of the Intellectual Property Committee (2004-2005), The Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago, Past Treasurer (1997-1999), American Intellectual Property Law Association and the Licensing Executives Society.

Gary Saposnik focuses on Domain Name counseling and dispute resolution, International Trademark Prosecution and Disputes, International Oppositions and Cancellations, Trade Secret counseling, Copyright and Social Media counseling and other Internet-related aspects of intellectual property. He has advised Fortune 500 companies regarding their domain name strategies, portfolios and enforcement, while protecting intellectual property assets and procuring domain names for clients through successful proceedings under the Uniform Domain-Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) and other enforcement solutions. Gary has successfully prosecuted numerous International and U.S. trademark applications and represented clients in opposition and cancellation proceedings throughout Europe, Asia, and all parts of the world. He has had extensive civil litigation experience and has been admitted to the Federal Trial Bar for the Northern District of Illinois. Gary earned an LL.M. degree in Intellectual Property, with Honors, from The John Marshall Law School, he received a J.D. from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, and a B.A. in Economics from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. He is a former Chair of the International Trademark Committee and Vice-Chair of the U.S. Trademark Committee of the Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago.