



WHY SAWYER LAW GROUP?

We practice intellectual property law exclusively. Our clients receive focused attention in patents, trademarks, trade secrets, copyright, and licensing—areas of law gaining importance for companies seeking a competitive edge. This is especially true for the technical fields we specialize in, which include electronics, software, optics, semiconductor processing, digital media, and mechanical engineering.

Our attorneys and agents each have technical expertise and extensive legal experience, led by Managing Partner

Joseph A. Sawyer, Jr., the founding member of the firm. The firm has represented clients in more than 3,000 patent applications. Our clients receive high quality legal services without paying large firm prices. We provide value billing for much of our work, and have quality assurance for all of our work product.

We are located in Palo Alto, California, the heart of Silicon Valley, and we provide counseling to inventive companies of all sizes all over the United States and abroad.

AT A GLANCE

REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

- IBM
- Atmel Corporation
- Apple Computer, Inc.
- Qualcomm Incorporated
- Boeing Company
- Lenovo
- Western Digital Corporation
- Micrel, Inc.
- Grandis, Inc.
- Aquantia Corp.
- Invensense

LEGAL EXPERTISE

- Patent Prosecution
- Infringement, Validity, and Right-To-Use
- Patent-related Audits and Due Diligence
- Prior Art Search and Analysis
- Portfolio Analysis
- Counseling for Individuals and Small Businesses
- Trademark Registration and Counseling
- Copyright Registration and Counseling

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SAMPLE PATENTS

ELECTRONICS / ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS

- 6,650,266 Digital to Analog Converter Using Control Signals and Method of Operation (LSI Logic)
- 6,566,733 Method and System for Providing a Power Lateral PNP Transistor Using a Buried Power Buss (Micrel)
- 6,487,095 Multiphase Zero-Volt-Switching Resonant DC-DC Regulator (IBM)

SOFTWARE ALGORITHMS & ARCHITECTURES

- 6,611,843 Specification of Sub-Element & Attributes in an XML Sub-Tree & Method for Extracting Data Values (Docent)
- 6,466,931 Method and System for Transparently Caching and Reusing Query Execution Plans Efficiently (IBM)
- 5,526,409 Adaptive Communication System Within a Transaction Card Network (Visa)

NETWORKING

- 6,735,692 Redirected Network Boot to Multiple Remote File Servers (IBM)
- 6,717,956 Dual-Mode Virtual Network Addressing (Luminous)
- 6,671,264 Method for Detecting Invalid Packets by Assigning Super-Transaction Identifiers (Loytec)

OPTICS

- 6,728,488 Optical Systems Employing Anamorphic Beams and Diffraction Gratings (Avanex)
- 6,682,228 Connector Housing for Fiber-Optic Module (Emcore)
- 6,430,330 Modular Approach to Substrate Population in a Fiber Optic Cross Connect (C Speed)

SAMPLE PATENTS

SEMICONDUCTOR DESIGN & PROCESSING

6,603,211 Method and System for Providing a Robust Alignment Mark at Thin Oxide Layers (AMD)

DIGITAL MEDIA & RENDERING DEVICES

6,215,523 Method & System for Accelerating a User Interface of an Image Capture Unit During Review Mode(Flashpoint)

5,737,487 Speaker Adaptation Based on Lateral Tying for Large-Vocabulary Continuous Speech Recognition (Apple)

5,617,517 Two-Dimensional Method and System for Compressing Bi-Level Images (Sieko Epson)

D470,857 Display Screen for a Digital Imaging Device (Flashpoint)

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

6,714,199 Method and Apparatus for Typographic Glyph Construction Including a Glyph Server (Apple)

6,636,259 Automatically Configuring a Web-Enabled Digital Camera to Access the Internet (IPAC)

6,624,819 Method & System for Providing a Flexible & Efficient Processor for Use in a Graphics Processing System
(Broadcom)

6,502,088 Method and System for Improved Access to Non-Relational Databases (IBM)

MAGNETIC / MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

6,721,149 Tunneling Magnetoresistance Spin-Valve Read Sensor with LaNiO₃ Spacer (Western Digital)

6,714,444 Magnetic Element Utilizing Spin Transfer and an MRAM Device Using the Magnetic Element (Grandis)

6,651,208 Method and System for Multiple Column Syndrome Generation (Mosel Vitelic)

6,497,209 System and Method for Protecting a Cranking Subsystem (Intra International)

STAFF SPECIALTIES AND DIRECTORY

NAME

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

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Software, Hardware, Flash devices, Flash processing methods, Relational databases, Digital circuitry, Radiotherapy, Ultrasound, Computer architecture, Optical devices, Graphics processing, Internet-related applications, Digital photography, Business methods, Computer systems, Server technology, Disk drives, Programmable logic devices, Reconfigurable devices, Video architecture.

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LEGAL EXPERTISE

PATENT PROSECUTION

Patent prosecution is the core of our work. Our attorneys and agents are skilled at preparing and prosecuting U.S. and foreign patent applications for a broad range of complex technologies, including software, hardware, Flash devices, Flash processing methods, relational databases, digital circuitry, radiotherapy, ultrasound, computer architecture, optical devices, graphics processing, Internet-related applications, digital photography, business methods, computer systems, server technology, disk drives, programmable logic devices, reconfigurable devices, and video architecture.

We tailor patent applications for your business goals. We determine the most effective methods of protection, and strategies that avoid issues with third-party patents. Through a network of relationships with attorneys in foreign countries, we can provide you with local representation to obtain and maintain patent rights in most countries in the world.

We can help you in organizing and administering intellectual property committees to identify, protect, and maintain intellectual property portfolios, including policies that ensure client ownership of intellectual property developed by employees.

INFRINGEMENT, VALIDITY, AND RIGHT-TO-USE

Our attorneys write legal opinions concerning potential infringements of U.S. patents, either by a client or of a client's patent. We also write opinions on the validity of U.S. patents that you own or are concerned about. If you are concerned you may be infringing existing patents, we provide right-to-use counseling and opinions in conjunction with prior art searches and analysis.

PATENT-RELATED AUDITS AND DUE DILIGENCE

Our attorneys perform both offensive and defensive audits of your own and your competitors' intellectual property portfolios. We can help you in due diligence investigations. We help in identifying issued, pending and abandoned U.S. and foreign patent applications, and patents filed by you, your competitors, or a potential seller. During mergers, sales, or other asset transfers, we help to review invention disclosures, those awaiting disposition or that may be the basis of a patent application.

PRIOR ART SEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Our attorneys conduct prior art searches among patents and non-patent sources in a variety of complex technology areas. We analyze the searches to identify any prior art that might prevent the United States Patent and Trademark Office from allowing a particular invention to be patented. These searches also help us to draft stronger patent claims for you.

PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS

Our attorneys, with their technical expertise and extensive legal experience, can analyze your patent portfolio, advising as to the potential scope of each patent, as well as the portfolio as a whole. We can help you to create a coherent patent portfolio strategy consistent with your technology and business goals. We tailor the prosecution of any pending patent applications according to your portfolio strategy.

COUNSELING FOR INDIVIDUALS & SMALL BUSINESSES

For individuals and small businesses, our attorneys can help to identify potentially patentable ideas, to assess the strength of each idea, prioritizing them in view of your technology and business goals, and drafting and filing patent applications to protect your ideas. We can help you create and maintain coherent intellectual property strategies, including combined use of patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets. We can train your workforce in-house on ways to identify and preserve your intellectual property rights. We provide "on-call" counseling for clients in these and other aspects of intellectual property matters.

TRADEMARK REGISTRATION AND COUNSELING

Our attorneys can counsel you in the protection of company names, brand names, slogans, and trade dress for U.S. and worldwide markets, including registration. We help you to file both "use in commerce" and "intent to use" registration applications for trademarks and service marks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

COPYRIGHT REGISTRATION AND COUNSELING

Our attorneys can counsel you on the selection and protection by copyright of computer software code, web sites, brochures, technical manuals, visual works, and more. We can help you to file copyright registration applications with the United States Copyright Office.