

Thomas G. Dickson

Partner

Tom Dickson is a shareholder and CFO at Patterson Thuente IP. A seasoned litigator and experienced practitioner in the areas of IP prosecution and strategy development, Tom is appreciated by clients for his business-oriented approach. He has a rich and diverse background from which to draw as he helps clients develop practice business strategies that focus on market potential.

Tom's practice emphasizes patent prosecution, IP portfolio management, patent opinions, enforcement of IP rights, and counseling clients on international intellectual property strategies.

Representative Technology Experience

- Agricultural implements
- Armored vehicle applications
- Automatic external defibrillators
- Cell culture devices
- Chiller compressors
- Conformal antennas
- Electro-thermal chemical igniters and connectors
- Fiber optic interconnects
- Hybrid electric vehicles
- Intravascular implantable devices
- LED light strings
- Projectile trajectory correction systems
- Shell and tube evaporators

Tom is also chair of the firm's trademark department and provides clients with sound strategies for developing, managing, and enforcing their trademark portfolios.

Background

Tom's diverse background includes serving as a project manager on "Star Wars" programs for the U.S. Air Force, working on technology that involved space- and ground-based laser systems and various shuttle-launched experiments. Before being recruited to the firm, Tom was a registered investment advisor and member of an investing team for RBC Dain Rauscher. He also gained valuable litigation experience at a Minneapolis-based, national litigation firm. There, he represented businesses, insurance companies and individuals in cases involving fires, explosions and structural collapses throughout the country.



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Practice Areas

Patent Prosecution
Copyright, Trademarks & Trade Secrets
Entertainment & the Arts
IP Portfolio Management
Intellectual Property Litigation
Licensing
International IP Protection
Technology Review and Product Clearance

Technology Areas

Chemical
Physics/Mechanical
Computer Law
Electrical/Electronics
Medical Devices
Telecommunications
Materials Science/Metallurgy
Optics/Optical Instruments
Oil Well Drilling & Production Technology

Education

University of Notre Dame, B.S., Aerospace Engineering, 1985
College of St. Thomas, B.A., Physics, 1985
William Mitchell College of Law, J.D., 1994, *Cum Laude*

Admissions

Supreme Court of Minnesota
U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota
U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

Memberships

Minnesota Intellectual Property Law Association
American Intellectual Property Law Association
Minnesota State Bar Association
International Trademark Association

Case Studies

- Enforced a design patent to stop a competitor's copycat design
- Developed portfolio management protocols for corporate clients, including disclosure and approval guidelines
- Defended a software distributor against a major software company—achieved a favorable settlement after disputing plaintiff's discovery requests
- Represented a manufacturer of automatic external defibrillators (AED) against industry infringers—case settled upon successful negotiation of licenses
- Defended a production studio on copyright and breach of contract claims, which resulted in a verdict for the defense after a six day trial

Other

- International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI), member
- University of St. Thomas Law School, mentor
- Loan Repayment Assistance Program of Minnesota, board member
- Good Shepherd School, board member
- Minneapolis Youthlink, volunteer and former board member and Treasurer