

Mike Rueckheim

Partner
Chair, Silicon Valley Litigation Practice

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Houston

Michael (Mike) is a one of the country's top patent litigators with a high-level background in technology and the Chair of the Litigation Practice for the firm's Silicon Valley office.

Mike has led teams for approximately 200 patent matters including in district courts, the PTAB, the Federal Circuit and the ITC. Mike is a first-call resource for many technology companies for their most significant and complex patent and related matters. Mike routinely counsels clients in the semiconductor, memory, telecom, medical device, networking, and virtualization spaces and has a strong focus on standards-based issues, crafting jury-friendly themes and litigating in Texas and Delaware courts.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Mike obtained nearly ten years of experience in industry, at Motorola focusing on trouble-shooting issues with high-tech

instrumentation such as plasma etchers (as a semiconductor process technician) and in oil, gas and environmental labs focusing on mass spectroscopy and related instrumentation (as an analytical research chemist).

Mike has guided clients through all stages of the litigation and PTAB post-grant processes, from pre-suit investigations to jury trials and ITC hearings, and through appeals of each up to the Federal Circuit. Mike has achieved great success for his clients across the country at trial and developing cases for trial, including obtaining key deposition admissions, arguing key motions winning claim construction (*Markman*) positions.

Mike has been featured in the Am Law “Litigator of the Week” column multiple times, including for achieving a jury trial win in a heated competitor case and an award of attorneys’ fees, treble damages and injunction post-trial. Mike has also achieved significant pre-trial victories for his defense clients including full exclusion of the plaintiffs’ damages expert reports in separate litigations and a summary judgment of no-available damages. Mike has argued in front of the PTAB multiple times and defended those wins on appeal at the Federal Circuit.

Prior to joining Winston, Mike focused on patent litigation at two nationally ranked firms in New York and Texas.

Key Matters

Some of the experience represented below may have been handled at a previous firm.

- Represented a leading semiconductor memory company in multiple patent matters based in Texas Courts, the PTAB and Federal Circuit with technologies targeted at memory module architecture.
- Represents multiple firewall and cybersecurity companies in patent matters pending in Texas and Delaware Courts, including the first multi-district litigation for Eastern District of Texas Judge Gilstrap.
- Represented a technology client in multiple patent matters based in an Illinois Court, the PTAB, the Federal Circuit, the Eastern District of Texas and the ITC. Illinois jury trial was a competitor case involving two patents relating to wireless and battery technology. Obtained complete jury trial verdict/win on all issues, including an award of treble damages, attorneys’ fees costs and permanent injunction. Court (in a post-trial opinion) stated: “This case was not close. [Defendant] lost on every issue at trial after less than two hours of jury deliberation.” Also obtained related wins from IPR stage and from ITC hearings (on different patents).
- Defended a large multinational information technology company in a multi-patent litigation pending in the Northern District of Texas, with accusations relating to high-speed technologies.
- Defended a large multinational information technology company in an Eastern District of Texas patent litigation, with accusations relating to manufacturing software techniques.
- Represented four major multinational technology defendants jointly in IPR and appeal; defended one client in an underlying Delaware patent litigation. Case involved accusations relating to memory techniques, reducing probe traffic and cache coherency concepts.
- Defended a major multinational technology company in an Eastern District of Texas patent litigation, with accusations relating to translating virtual addresses in a system having multiple instruction pipelines.
- Represented a global leader in cloud and digital technology in an IPR and appeal, as well as Delaware patent litigation. Case involved accusations relating to networking techniques for RAID memory systems.
- Defended a leading electronics, appliances and mobile devices company in a Western District of Texas patent litigation, with accusations relating to standard essential patent issues and Bluetooth frequency hopping selection of communications channels.

- Defended a major multinational technology company in a multi-patent litigation pending in the Eastern District of Texas, with accusations relating to processor architecture concepts, including SIMD floating point coprocessor techniques and memory applications.

Pro Bono

Mike is dedicated to pro bono service and has helped individuals with regards to many issues including, mortgage/eviction disputes, fair housing, trusts, custody, and asylum matters. Mike also donates his time as a legal volunteer at the Marin County law library multiple times a year.

Recent Experience

Winston Achieves Historic No-Damages Summary Judgment for Microsoft in Patent Case

Winston Secures Favorable Settlement for Virtualization Company in 10-Patent Case

Recognitions

Mike was featured in *Am Law Litigation Daily* “Litigator of the Week” for a patent litigation win for Microsoft on September 6, 2024. His patent litigation knowledge and technical experience have also been recognized by numerous legal directories.

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® —Recognized for Litigation - Intellectual Property (2024)
 - *The Legal 500 US*—Recognized for Patent Litigation: Full Coverage (2018, 2021) and as a “Key Lawyer” (2021)
 - *Patexia*—Recognized within the top 100 in the *Patent Litigation Report* (2025)
 - *IAM Patent 1000*
 - Recognized (2020–2025)
 - Described as:
 - “Technically astute Chair of Winston’s Silicon Valley litigation practice who expertly transfers his trial skills across a range of venues, from district courts to the ITC, and can be trusted to handle clients’ most high-profile cases.”
 - “Highly knowledgeable and experienced in all facets of patents and patent litigation, which he uses to achieve great results.”
 - “Fantastic strategist who is extremely knowledgeable about the federal courts, especially in Texas.”
 - “He has a keen technical ability along with practical judgment and a great ability to manage and run large teams – a combination of talents that is hard to find.”
 - “Difference maker in Silicon Valley, impressing with his technical dexterity and trial proficiency.”
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Activities

- Member, Silicon Valley Intellectual Property Law Association
 - Member, American Bar Association
 - Member, Federal Circuit Bar Association
 - Member, Houston Intellectual Property Association
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“Michael Rueckheim is highly knowledgeable and experienced in all facets of patents and patent litigation, which he uses to achieve great results. He is personable, proactive, responsive and open to hearing thoughts on the proposed approach and strategy.”

IAM Patent 1000

Credentials

EDUCATION

Mike received his B.S. in biochemistry from the University of Texas in 2000. He received his J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Washington University Law School in 2008, graduating in the top 5 percent of his class. Mike was also elected to the Order of the Coif and the *Washington University Law Review*.

ADMISSIONS

- California
- Texas
- New York

CLERKSHIPS

- USDC - Eastern District of MO for the Honorable Rodney W. Sippel

Related Insights & News

Speaking Engagements:

- Centerforce IP Strategy Summit - Palo Alto, “Navigating the Innovation Equation: Using AI in the Practice of Patent Law,” November 12, 2024
- ABA Artificial Intelligence and Robotics National Institute, “Maximizing the Value of GenAI Creations: Patent/Copyrights vs. Trade Secret Protection,” Oct. 14, 2024
- Events 4 Sure, “Protecting IP in the Digital Age,” Aug. 28, 2024
- Global IP ConfEx, “Patenting AI Innovations: Protecting Data Privacy and Cybersecurity in AI-driven Technologies,” June 18, 2024

- IIPLA 4th Annual Meeting, “IP challenges brought by 5G and IoT,” September 25, 2019
- American Conference Institute’s 17th Global Summit on Life Sciences Patents Conference, New York, “New § 101 Landscape: Exploring the Latest Developments at the PTO and District Court Relative to Patent Eligibility,” May 16, 2019

Publications:

- “Takeaways From Three Critical SEP Litigation Rulings of 2024,” co-author, IAM, Oct. 25, 2024
- “The Evolving Scope of IPR Estoppel as Applied to System and Product Prior Art,” co-author, Vol. 23, *Chicago-Kent Journal of Intellectual Property*, May 20, 2024
- “Patent Mediation Guide,” *Federal Judicial Center’s Patent Case Management Judicial Guide*, Supplement, January 2019
- “Four Changes to Patent Litigation Post ‘TC Heartland,’” *The Recorder*, October 2017
- “Silicon Valley,” *Inside Counsel*, June 2017

CLIENT ALERT

Federal Circuit Reverses US\$200M+ Jury Verdicts Because Asserted Claims Are Unpatentable Under § 101
JUNE 13, 2025

CLIENT ALERT

PTAB Acting Director Denies IPR Merely Because Petitioner Knew of the Challenged Patent Over a Decade Ago
JUNE 10, 2025

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Recognized in 2025 *IAM Patent 1000* Rankings
JUNE 3, 2025

CLIENT ALERT

Federal Circuit Determines Meaning of ‘Ground’ in IPR Estoppel Statute As Matter of First Impression
MAY 8, 2025

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Kathi Vidal Leads Fireside Chat at 2025 IP Counsel Café
MAY 6, 2025

CLIENT ALERT

The PTAB’s Institution Grant Rate Has Dropped After Announcement of the New PTAB Discretionary Denial Guidance and Briefing Procedure
MAY 5, 2025

IN THE MEDIA

Mike Rueckheim Discusses Patent Office’s New Denial Process FAQ with Law360

MAY 2, 2025

CLIENT ALERT

PTAB Holds Informative Discussion With Stakeholders Answering Questions About the New Discretionary Denial Briefing Process

APRIL 21, 2025

CLIENT ALERT

USPTO Director Review Insights and PTAB Policy Shifts: Early 2025

APRIL 4, 2025

CLIENT ALERT

Patent Office Issues New Guidance for PTAB Proceedings

MARCH 27, 2025

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Patent Attorneys Ranked in The Top 2 Percentile of *Patexia's* 2025 Patent Litigation Report

JANUARY 30, 2025

SPONSORSHIP

Winston & Strawn Sponsors 2024 Eastern District of Texas Bench Bar Conference

OCTOBER 23, 2024

Capabilities

Intellectual Property	Litigation/Trials	Patent Litigation	Technology Antitrust
Technology, Media & Telecommunications	Medical Devices	Oil & Gas	