



Janice V. Mitrius

Attorney

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Janice has a broad range of experience in several areas of intellectual property law. Her focus is on patent, trademark and trade dress litigation as well as commercialization, and enforcement of patents, trademarks, trade dress and copyrights. Janice has litigated patent, trademark, trade dress and copyright cases in wide ranging technologies and businesses including, for example, coolers, drinkware, convenience store services, merchandise display shelving, adult protective underwear, adult incontinence products, internet sales methods, injection molding equipment, diapers, feminine hygiene products, instant messaging, athletic shoes, personal care products, steam turbine engines, food processing, plastics processing and extrusions, voting machines, railroad cars, and rapid prototyping. In 2009, Janice V. Mitrius was elected as the firm's first woman President. Ms. Mitrius served in this role until 2011. She was reelected President in 2023.

Janice has extensive experience in all aspects of litigation including developing strategies for discovery and trial or for early resolution. She has prepared and successfully argued motions before the court, including motions for summary judgment, for claim construction, entry of default, temporary restraining orders, orders of seizure, to compel discovery and the award of attorneys' fees. She has conducted several proceedings before the court including preliminary injunction and arbitration hearings and jury and bench trials. Janice has been extensively involved in discovery

matters, Markman hearings, pretrial matters, and trial. She has also successfully negotiated and drafted settlement agreements in patent, trademark, and trade dress infringement suits.

Janice has a broad range of appellate experience including developing strategies for briefing, preparing briefs, and arguing before the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. In addition, Janice has represented clients as lead counsel before both the Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Janice has significant experience in obtaining design patents and has also prepared utility patents in the mechanical field, including tooling and biomedical devices. She also is experienced in intellectual property counseling and patent opinion preparation. Janice has significant experience in preparing trademark opinions and obtaining registrations. In addition, she has also been involved in negotiating and drafting various agreements, including joint development agreements, trademark purchase agreements and assignments, trademark licenses, and merchandising agreements.

Janice earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology. After completing her undergraduate degree, she gained over five years of practical engineering and business experience as a project engineer with AlliedSignal Engines (now Honeywell). She concentrated on product design and development for auxiliary power gas turbine engines for regional jet and executive aircrafts. She was involved in all aspects of the engineering process including problem identification, design and analysis of solutions, verification through testing, customer communication, and production incorporation. During her five years at AlliedSignal, she earned a Masters of Business Administration degree. She received her degree of Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Arizona State University.

Janice is an active member of the ABA and currently serves (since 2002) in a leadership role in the Litigation Section. She is presently a Leadership Development Coordinator for the 2024–2025 bar year (a position she has held since 2022) and will continue in that role for the 2025-2026 bar year. Prior to her current leadership role, Janice was Director of Division VI (2020-2022). And she served as a Managing Director for the 2019-2020 bar year. She also was elected to and served as a member of the Section of Litigation's Council from 2016-2019. In addition, Janice Co-Chaired the Section of Litigation's Sound Advice Committee (2015-2016). Further, she served in numerous other leadership roles in the Section of Litigation as the Director of Division VII (2013-2015), Co-Chair for the Section's 2013 Annual Conference (2011-2013), Co-Chair of the Judicial Intern Opportunity Program Committee (2008-2011), Co-Chair of the Technology for the Litigator Committee (2005-2008) and Co-Chair of the Intellectual Property Litigation Committee (2002-2005). Janice is also a member of the Leading Lawyers Network. Based upon peer nominations and approval by the network's Advisory Board, only the top lawyers are nominated and eligible for membership in the Leading Lawyers Network. Janice was listed in Illinois Super Lawyers from 2008 to 2025, and named in its list of Top 50 Women Lawyers from 2009 to 2011. Janice has also been recognized in the 2025 Illinois Leading Lawyers. In addition, Janice has taught a class on Intellectual Property Pretrial Practice as an adjunct professor at Northwestern University College of Law since 2007.

Education

Illinois Institute of Technology

1988, B.S., Mechanical Engineering

University of Phoenix

1994, M.B.A.

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University

1997, J.D.

Admissions

Bar Admissions

1997, Illinois

Court Admissions

Supreme Court of Illinois

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan

U.S. Supreme Court

Practices

Appellate Litigation

Copyright

Counseling, Opinions + Licensing

Counterfeit Goods Seizure

Design Patents

Jury Trials

Litigation

PTAB Litigation

Trade Dress

Trademarks

Industries

Mechanical Engineering

Recent News + Events + Related Publications

NEWS - 05.27.26

2026 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Features 20 Banner Witcoff Attorneys

NEWS - 01.13.25

20 Banner Witcoff Attorneys Listed as 2025 Illinois Leading, Emerging Lawyers

NEWS - 06.26.24

Banner Witcoff Secures Victory for Client Apprio, Inc.

NEWS - 01.19.24

2024 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Features 15 Banner Witcoff Attorneys