



### Robert S. Katz

Attorney

Washington, DC

[rkatz@bannerwitcoff.com](mailto:rkatz@bannerwitcoff.com)

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Rob has benefited firm clients in the areas of utility patents and industrial designs. He has drafted and prosecuted to issuance numerous and significant utility patents in the U.S. and in foreign countries. These clients include Fortune 500 companies as well as many individual inventors and small companies who rely on strong patent protection in their marketplaces. The patents have been directed primarily to mechanical and electromechanical devices, and to software and computer-related inventions. Many patents drafted and prosecuted by Rob have been successfully enforced with some having served as the cornerstone for the successful sale of companies.

Rob has also provided advice and prepared opinions regarding the patentability of inventions, patent infringement, patent validity, and trade secret protection to help clients properly assess the advantages and disadvantages of certain intellectual property and business decisions.

In patent and trademark litigation matters, he has assisted clients in enforcing and defending intellectual property related claims at the district court and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and in the International Trade Commission.

Both nationally and internationally, Rob is considered one of the premier practitioners in the field of industrial designs, leading the way in the procurement and enforcement of design patents. On behalf of the firm's clients, he has helped procure more than 11,000 design patents in the U.S. and more than 32,000 design patents/registrations outside the U.S., and has helped to successfully enforce over 200 design patents. Leaders from foreign design patent offices have consulted with him regarding industrial design policies, and he has served as an expert in design patent litigations. He also prepared and filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of IDSA (Industrial Designers Society of America).

He is a frequent speaker on industrial design-related topics and has been invited to speak before industry and legal professional organizations on six continents. He has spoken at conferences and seminars hosted by ABA (American Bar Association), AIPLA (American Intellectual Property Law Association), FICPI (Federation International des Conseils en Propriete Industrielle), INTA (International Trademark Association), IPO (Intellectual Property Owners Association), IPR University Center (Finland), the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and WIPO (World Intellectual Property Office). Representatives from the Japanese Patent Office, the Korean Patent Office, and WIPO have consulted with him on issues of design patent harmonization.

Rob has written articles addressing issues relating to utility patent, design patent, and trade dress rights. He has authored a section entitled "Writing Patents for Litigation and Licensing" for a published book by BNA Publishing and co-authored a chapter entitled "Protecting and Enforcing Design Rights in the United States" for World Trademark Review's Designs: A Global Guide 2018. He is currently a professor at George Washington University Law School, teaching Design Law, and was formerly a professor at Georgetown University Law School, teaching Intellectual Property Pretrial Litigation Skills.

Rob holds leadership positions in several professional organizations, including ABA, AIPLA, FICPI and INTA. He is the past Chair of INTA's Designs Committee and past President of FICPI's U.S. Section. For the ABA Section of Intellectual Property Law, he currently serves as Liaison to FICPI. He also serves as a member of the Industrial Designs working group of the AIPLA Special Committee on Legislation. He is a former Chair of the Industrial Design Section for both FICPI and AIPLA, and also a member of IDSA and IPO. Currently, he serves as CET Special Reporter for International Designs for FICPI.

Before joining Banner Witcoff, Rob was a patent examiner at the USPTO. In that capacity, he examined patent applications for article and material handling devices covering a broad range of applications including robotics, conveyors, and loading and unloading vehicles. Rob also worked as a mechanical engineer at Digital Equipment Corporation's High Performance Systems, where he designed mechanical, electrical, and electromechanical devices for main-frame computers. Additionally, he is a co-inventor of U.S. Patent No. 4,723,549 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Dilating Blood Vessels."

Rob earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University, and his Juris Doctor degree, with honors, from George Washington University. He is

admitted to practice before many courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. He is a member of the bar in Virginia and the District of Columbia, and is registered to practice before the USPTO.

Rob has been recognized as a top patent practitioner by many organizations including IAM (Global Leader and Top 1000), MIP (IP Star), IP Law and Business, National Law Journal (Trailblazer), Legal 500, Who's Who Legal, Thomson Reuters' Super Lawyers, and Best Lawyers in America.

## **Education**

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Carnegie Mellon University

1986, B.S., Mechanical Engineering

George Washington University Law School

1992, J.D.

## **Admissions**

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### **Bar Admissions**

1992, Virginia

1993, District of Columbia

### **Court Admissions**

District of Columbia Court of Appeals

Superior Court of the District of Columbia

U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

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

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

## **Practices**

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Design Patents  
Litigation  
Patent Prosecution  
Trademarks

## Industries

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Internet, E-Commerce + Business Methods  
Mechanical Engineering

## Accolades

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- Selected for inclusion in Chambers and Partners, Patent Prosecution, Washington, D.C., 2025
- Named a 2026 AV Preeminent Attorney by Martindale-Hubbe
- Selected for inclusion in The [Best Lawyers in America](#), Patent Law, 2023
- Intellectual Asset Management (IAM) – Global Leader, 2024
- Named an “IP Star” by [Managing Intellectual Property](#), 2025
- Recognized for litigation and prosecution work, IAM Patent 1000: The World’s Leading Patent Professionals, 2025
- Named to National Law Journal's list of Intellectual Property Trailblazer, 2023

## Recent News + Events + Related Publications

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### **NEWS - 05.27.26**

**2026 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Features 20 Banner Witcoff Attorneys**

### **NEWS - 05.01.26**

**Four Banner Witcoff Attorneys Named in WIPR Leaders 2026**

[NEWS - 03.13.26](#)

**IP Alert | USPTO's Updated Guidelines for Graphical User Interface and Screen Designs**

[PRESS - 02.24.26](#)

**Banner Witcoff Attorneys Analyze Federal Circuit's Approach to Design Patent Infringement**

[PRESS - 02.16.26](#)

**WIPR's USA Patents 2025 Recognizes Robert Katz and Patent Practice**

[EVENT - 10.09.25](#)

**Robert Katz Presents at ID5 User Session**

[EVENT - 09.29.25](#)

**Design Patents Post-LKQ v. GM: Navigating New Obviousness Test for Design Patents | Webinar**

[EVENT - 09.22.25](#)

**Copyright Overlapping With Other IP Rights | Webinar**

[NEWS - 09.03.25](#)

**Robert Katz Quoted by Bloomberg Law on Filing Complaints With the ITC**

[NEWS - 07.07.25](#)

**Banner Witcoff and 16 Shareholders Earn Top Marks in Managing IP's 2025 IP Stars**

[EVENT - 06.25.25](#)

**What's New in Designs? Robert Katz Presents at FICPI Denmark**

[NEWS - 06.05.25](#)

**2025 Chambers and Partners Recognizes Banner Witcoff**

[NEWS - 06.04.25](#)

**16 Banner Witcoff Attorneys Recognized in IP Stars 2025**

**NEWS - 06.02.25**

**Robert Katz and Mercedes Meyer Recognized in WIPR Leaders 2025**

**NEWS - 06.02.25**

**Nine Banner Witcoff Attorneys Recognized as 2025 Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers, Rising Stars**

**NEWS - 05.29.25**

**Banner Witcoff and 14 Attorneys Recognized in IAM Patent 1000**

**PRESS - 05.12.25**

**MLex Quotes Robert Katz on Harmonization of Digital Design Protection**

**EVENT - 05.06.25**

**Robert Katz and Richard Stockton Present at USPTO International Design Forum**

**PRESS - 04.17.25**

**Robert Katz Discusses Suspension of Expedited Design Patent Examination With Managing IP**

**EVENT - 04.01.25**

**Robert Katz Presents on Trade Dress in Fashion for Inter-American Association of Intellectual Property Advanced Fashion Law Course**

**NEWS - 03.12.25**

**Banner Witcoff: A Design Patent Procurement Leader for 22 Years**

**EVENT - 03.10.25**

**Robert Katz Presents at The Chartered Institute of Trademark Attorneys in London**

**PRESS - 01.31.25**

**Managing IP Quotes Robert Katz on Navigating Design Patent Enforcement Spike**

**EVENT - 11.20.24**

**EVENT - 10.24.24**

**Design Law 2024: The Article of Manufacture**

**NEWS - 10.10.24**

**IAM Global Leaders Recognizes Robert Katz and Mercedes Meyer**

**EVENT - 09.16.24**

**Robert Katz and Anna King Speak at FICPI Open Forum in Madrid**

**EVENT - 09.12.24**

**Design Patents Post-LKQ v. GM: Navigating New Obviousness Test for Design Patents**

**NEWS - 08.14.24**

**Robert Katz and Darrell Mottley Recognized in Who's Who Legal: IP 2024**

**EVENT - 06.28.24**

**Design Patents Post-LKQ v. GM: Rob Katz Presents in Strafford Webinar**

**NEWS - 06.06.24**

**IAM Patent 1000 Recognizes 14 Banner Witcoff Attorneys, Patent Prosecution, and Litigation Practices**

**NEWS - 06.04.24**

**IP Stars 2024 Recognizes 17 Banner Witcoff Attorneys**

**EVENT - 05.31.24**

**Banner Witcoff's Robert Katz and Anna King Present at FICPI ABC Meeting in Edinburgh**

**EVENT - 05.29.24**

**Leverage Design Patents to Protect Graphical User Interfaces: Robert Katz Presents in Strafford Webinar**

**NEWS - 05.22.24**

**IP Alert | Federal Circuit Overrules over 40 years of Design Law Precedent in Assessing Obviousness in LKQ Corporation v. GM Global Technology Operations LLC**

**EVENT - 04.25.24**

**Rob Katz Joins Strafford Webinar Design Patent Claim Construction: Written Description, Ornamentality, Functionality, and More**

**NEWS - 04.22.24**

**Nine Banner Witcoff Attorneys Named 2024 Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers and Rising Stars**

**EVENT - 03.07.24**

**Rob Katz Joins Panel Discussion: Design Patent Enforcement: Best Practices, Due Diligence Considerations, Strategies During Prosecution, Maximizing Damages**

**NEWS - 03.05.24**

**Banner Witcoff Celebrates National Industrial Design Day and 21 Consecutive Years as the Leader in Design Patent Procurement**

**NEWS - 02.06.24**

**IP Alert | Federal Circuit Sitting En Banc Hears Oral Arguments in Design Patent Case LKQ v. GM**

**NEWS - 12.19.23**

**IDSA Recognizes Rob Katz for Industrial Design Profession Advocacy**

**EVENT - 12.01.23**

**En Banc Federal Circuit Case: LKQ v. GM, Design Patent Obviousness - Rob Katz Joins IPLAC Panel**

**EVENT - 09.20.23**

**The Protection of Digital Goods: Robert Katz Presents at FICPI Open Forum Meeting**

**EVENT - 09.01.23**

**Robert Katz Presents at the New Zealand Institute of Patent Attorneys Annual Conference**

**NEWS - 08.28.23**

**Managing IP Recognizes 18 Banner Witcoff Attorneys in 2023 “IP Stars” Guide**

**NEWS - 08.16.23**

**Who's Who Legal Recognizes Robert Katz and Darrell Mottley**

**NEWS - 07.05.23**

**Banner Witcoff’s Robert Katz Named to National Law Journal’s Intellectual Property Trailblazers**

**NEWS - 06.27.23**

**IAM 1000 Recognizes 15 Banner Witcoff Attorneys, Patent Prosecution, and Litigation Practices**