

Kevin C. Ecker

Sr. IP Counsel

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Kevin Ecker is an in-house counsel with Philips Intellectual Property & Standards working in the General Licensing Group. He is part of a team that handles all aspects of IP Licensing, with a focus on Wireless Charging. In his fifteen years at Philips, Mr. Ecker has worked on patent procurement, litigation defense, IP transactional matters, trademarks and trade secret related issues. Mr. Ecker has experience across a wide range of technologies, including Wireless Charging, Medical Devices and Telecommunications.

Mr. Ecker is active in the legal community, is currently co-chair of the Trade Secret Committee of the New York Intellectual Property Law Association and has been active on the IPO's IP Licensing & Related Issues Committee. Previously, Mr. Ecker served as an Officer and on the Board of Directors for the NYIPLA.

Prior to Philips, Mr. Ecker worked as an associate for several New York law firms including Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, LLP and Morgan & Finnegan as well as an engineer in the Medical Instruments Division of Olympus America, Inc. Mr. Ecker holds a degree in Electrical Engineering from Hofstra University and a J.D. from St. John's University School of Law. Mr. Ecker is Registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and is admitted to practice in New York State, the US Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

Laura Hidalgo

Regional managing counsel, Latin America

Laura Hidalgo is Merck's Regional Managing Counsel for the Latin America region, advising Merck's Latin America business and managing the team of attorneys and paralegals supporting the Latin America markets on all legal and compliance matters. Laura joined Merck as a director in the Corporate Transactions group in November 2015, supporting a broad range of company transactions and initiatives including key mergers, acquisition and licensing transactions. Since joining Merck, she has also been an active participant in Merck's Pro Bono Program.

Prior to joining Merck, Laura was an associate in the Mergers & Acquisitions department at Paul Hastings LLP in New York. She holds a B.A. in comparative literature from Princeton University, a J.D. from Duke University and a masters in business law from the Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po) and the Sorbonne.





Robert Isackson – Leason Ellis LLP

Rob Isackson is a partner at Leason Ellis and an accomplished, front-line IP litigator and counselor. For the last thirty years his day job has been litigating patents, trade secrets and non-disclosure agreements in diverse technologies, such as computer hardware and software, genetically modified corn, soybean and cotton, smart phones, hangers, luggage and fuzzy slippers, on both sides of the v. He has been trial team lead in over seventy cases filed in U.S. district courts in more than 20 states. Rob also translates his broad litigation experience to support clients with IP due diligence, freedom-to-operate opinions, procurement, and transactions. He approaches client service by working with the client to identify the problem in the business context, and then develop creative and cost-effective strategies and solutions that align with the client's business objectives to move its business forward.

Beyond client work, Rob serves as Pro Bono partner at Leason Ellis, is a Past President of the New York Intellectual Property Law Association (NYIPLA) and has been active on both the NYIPLA and Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO)'s Trade Secret and Amicus Briefs Committees. Rob has helped author over a dozen amicus briefs, including for NYIPLA or IPO, and regularly speaks on IP issues, from ethics to biosimilars.

Rob holds J.D. and B.S.E.E. degrees from the University of Michigan. Before law school, Rob fried circuits in an electronics design lab and crashed main-frame computers, worked in an auto assembly factory, and washed dishes at a Utah ski resort. These experiences encouraged him to meld his passion for technology and helping others with advocacy to become an IP lawyer.



Adam P. Samansky

Member

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Boston

EDUCATION

- Suffolk University Law School (JD)
- Brandeis University (BA)

Adam is an experienced IP litigator who primarily serves pharmaceutical, medical, high tech, and defense industry clients. He handles patent, trade secret and other intellectual property matters for innovators and investors. Adam has a strong record of success in multiparty, highly contested Hatch-Waxman litigation, in addition to other litigations involving advanced biochemistry, polymers, optics, manufacturing processes, and electronics. He has tried cases before multiple US district courts, briefed and argued cases before the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and briefed bet-the-company issues before the US Supreme Court.

ADMISSIONS

- Massachusetts
- New York
- United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- United States District Court for the District of Columbia
- United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
- United States Supreme Court

For pharmaceutical clients, Adam leverages his trial and appellate experience in litigation when advising on new product development, regulatory strategy, Orange Book listing, citizen petition practice, and the settlement of multiparty, highly contested Hatch-Waxman litigation. Adam also advises on due diligence on pharmaceutical assets, including reviewing and assessing litigation, regulatory, and competitive strategies.

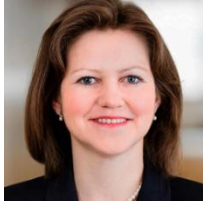
Recognition & Awards

- *Best Lawyers in America*: Intellectual Property Litigation (2018 - 2024)
- Included on the *Massachusetts Super Lawyers* - Intellectual Property Litigation list (2021 – 2023)
- Included on the *Massachusetts Super Lawyers: Rising Star* - Intellectual Property Litigation list (2013 – 2018)

Involvements

- Member, Boston Bar Association
- Member, American Intellectual Property Law Association
- Member, Boston Patent Law Association
- Member, Federal Circuit Bar Association
- Member, American Chemical Society

Ksenia Takhistova, M.S., J.D.



Ms. Ksenia Takhistova is a Co-Chair, Director and Legal Counsel at CME, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating diverse STEM talent and leadership for sustainable innovation since 1954. Before she joined the company, Ksenia spent over ten years as an attorney in private practice, at an IP boutique Kenyon & Kenyon and an AmLaw100 Firm Hunton Andrews Kurth. She is an experienced IP litigator and technology attorney who counsels clients on US intellectual property law issues across a wide variety of modern and emerging technologies. Ksenia has substantial experience in all aspects of litigation, representing both plaintiffs and defendants in patent cases before the Federal District Courts, at the International Trade Commission, in post-grant proceedings at the US Patent and Trademark Office, and before the Federal Circuit. She also handles other IP-related disputes, including trade secret, false advertising, and antitrust issues, in both Federal and State Courts, and has been named by Super Lawyers as a New York Rising Star in IP litigation in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Ksenia also represents clients in tech transactions, including IP portfolio licensing, technology-focused joint ventures and spinoffs, negotiates various technology-related agreements, and performs M&A due diligence and opinion work, including freedom-to-operate, patentability, infringement and validity analyses. Drawing on her extensive educational and research background in the mechanical and chemical engineering arts, she is able to effectively advise clients and handle disputes in a broad array of technical fields, such as mechanical and medical devices, electrical and computer technology, life sciences, chemical, materials, and consumer products. Ksenia frequently speaks at domestic and international IP law conferences and serves as a mediation coach for VLA. She is an elected Board member of Leading Women in Technology, a non-profit dedicated to empowering women to grow their knowledge, leadership skills and network in order to map their own paths to career success and achieve greater personal and professional impact. Ksenia is a long-time member and supporter of NYIPLA, and frequently co-authors amicus briefs on substantive legal issues of importance to the IP profession,

She holds an M.S. in Chemical Engineering from University of Notre Dame, an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Moscow State University, and a J.D. from Rutgers Law School. She interned at the technology transfer office of the NJ Institute of Technology and clerked at the NJ Law Revision Commission.