



Melvin Garner – Leason Ellis LLP:

Melvin Garner is a partner in the Patent Practice and Litigation Practice Groups at Leason Ellis, where he heads the firm's Japan Practice Group. Mel works with individuals and companies in the US to obtain patents and to manage their patent portfolios. He provides opinions on patentability and patent infringement. Further, Mel represents clients in patent and trade secret litigations. Mel also helps Japanese and Chinese companies obtain patents in the US and defends them in US patent litigation. Mel's domestic and foreign clients operate in a wide range of industries including ultrasonic testing, lighting, medical devices, automotive, machine tool, chemical and university research. Mel is interested in learning about clients' problems and fashioning efficient solutions to those problems.

Mel has been an expert witness in over 20 cases. He is the author of numerous articles and is a frequent lecturer at the Practising Law Institute. Mel is a Past President of both the New York Intellectual Property Law Association and the American Intellectual Property Law Association. He is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Hon. William C. Conner Inn of Court. He also serves on the Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel for the Southern District of New York. Mel received the AIPLA's 2024 Excellence Award and the NYIPLA's 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award. He is also listed in Euromoney's Guide to the World's Leading Patent Law Experts, Who's Who Legal – Patents, WIPR Leaders and New York Super Lawyers. Mel has a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School, where he was an editor of the Law Review. He received a B.S.E.E. from Drexel University and an M.S.E.E. from New York University.



Audrey Trace – Leason Ellis LLP:

Audrey Trace is an associate in the Trademark and Copyright Practice Group at Leason Ellis, where she focuses on trademark prosecution matters, namely, counseling, protecting, and enforcing trademark, trade dress, copyright, and related intellectual property rights. She regularly assists clients with trademark clearance, monitoring, and enforcement in various forums including practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Audrey has worked with brand owners on trademark matters in many different industries including entertainment, automotive, beauty and cosmetics, medical devices, and software and technology. She also has experience in copyright matters and domain name disputes such as arbitrations under the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy.

Audrey received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in history from the University of Florida in 2018, and her Juris Doctor from the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law in 2021, with a Certificate in Intellectual Property.



Stephanie (Stevie) Casino – Emory University

Stephanie (Stevie) Casino is a Contract Specialist at Emory University in the Office of Technology Transfer and is a co-chair of the NYIPLA Young Lawyers Committee. Stephanie is a recent law school graduate with diverse legal experience that includes working at a boutique IP law firm, UNH's Franklin Pierce School of Law IP and Transaction Clinic, and at the Dartmouth Technology Transfer Office. During law school, she was the Lead Articles Editor for IDEA: The Law Review of the Franklin Pierce Center for Intellectual Property. Prior to law school, Stephanie worked in the pharmaceuticals industry in medical communications. She has a longstanding passion for IP, innovation, and scientific development.