

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN... WALNUT CREEK

Five Questions with Kilpatrick Townsend Office Managing Partner Joe Snyder

1. How long has the firm had a presence in Walnut Creek?

Walnut Creek and the East Bay represent a key component of the economy of the Greater Bay Area. Its proximity to universities, national laboratories, and population centers has quietly put this small city on the map as one of the most business-friendly cities in California, attracting increasingly large numbers of health care, life science, energy, and financial services companies.

Since 2000, the Walnut Creek office has served clients domestically, internationally, and throughout the Bay Area, particularly emerging life sciences and technology businesses and U.S. and Bay Area universities and research institutions. Conveniently located to the Tri-Valley innovation centers of Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon, Danville, and the Berkeley-Emeryville corridor, our office provides close proximity to well-established technology companies, emerging companies, startups, as well as world-class bioscience innovators. To meet our clients specialized needs, many Walnut Creek attorneys and scientific advisors hold Ph.Ds and other advanced degrees in the advanced sciences, giving us as much experience in the law as in the lab.

2. Describe the Walnut Creek office's expertise and client base?

The Walnut Creek office brings experience in all facets of intellectual property law, including patent and trademark drafting and prosecution, technology transactions, and due diligence. Our clients include international and domestic pharmaceutical/biotechnology companies, computer services companies, financial services companies, food and beverage companies, and consumer electronics companies. Since opening our office in 2000, the need for IP services has grown exponentially. Not only has the Walnut Creek office kept pace, we have become perfectly situated to handle that growing need.

3. What differentiates Kilpatrick Townsend from other firms in Walnut Creek?

As part of Kilpatrick Townsend's preeminent intellectual property practice, the Walnut Creek office boasts the largest, most specialized IP practice in the East Bay — among only a small handful of firms with an IP practice. Our office contains a thriving life sciences group, as well as an electronics and software group, while offering extensive expertise in trademark, technology transactions, and medical devices. Further, all attorneys in the Walnut Office are active members of the Contra Costa County Bar Association (CCCBA), through which we host CCCBA's IP section meetings, providing cutting-edge presentations on a variety of topics.

4. Any recent growth?

The Walnut Creek office has doubled in size in the last two years by strategically adding both staff and attorneys to our newly renovated office. The office is situated in the perfect geographic area to attract talented employees in the Easy Bay, and continues to maintain a family feel and rich culture, where hard work is celebrated and investment in each other is encouraged.

5. What key initiatives does the Walnut Creek office spearhead in the community?

Since opening our doors in 2000, Walnut Creek attorneys and staff have actively donated countless community service and pro bono hours throughout Contra Costa County. Our service includes annual food, toy, and coat drives benefiting multiple charities, as well as participation in an annual marathon/donation drive for a pro bono client that raises thousands of dollars each year. We also partner with a local organization to assist troops, a local elementary school to encourage children's reading programs, and a local hospital to collect school supplies for low income families. Further, many office members volunteer monthly at BayLegal to provide much needed legal assistance to low income families, while many others have successfully obtained pro bono U-Visas for clients, earning "Volunteer of the Quarter" awards and the "Staff Volunteer of the Year" award for outstanding work on pro bono and community impact projects. Lastly, as a main sponsor and presenter at the CCCBA MCLE Spectacular — the CCCBA's annual "premier" legal education event and the largest MCLE event in the area — we help provide a full day of informative presentations on a variety of legal topics to the legal community.

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