

## Zachary S. Kelton

### Counsel

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#### Services

Asset Creation - Prosecution &  
Counseling  
Intellectual Property  
Licensing, Transactions &  
Monetization  
Market Protection - Opinions &  
Dispute Avoidance  
Patents

#### Industries

Automotive  
Consumer Goods  
Electronics & Computer  
Technology  
Energy  
Energy Procurement  
Financial Services  
Fintech  
Health & Life Sciences  
Home Furnishings  
Media & Entertainment  
Medical & Surgical Devices  
Oil & Gas  
Retail & Consumer Goods  
Technology



Zac Kelton focuses his practice on domestic and international patent prosecution and counseling. He is a registered patent attorney and regularly drafts and prosecutes patent applications before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. His practice focuses on electronics and software, with emphasis on handling patent eligibility issues. His technical experience covers many areas, including blockchains, cryptocurrencies, non-fungible tokens, smart contracts, mobile applications, banking and electronic payment systems, cloud computing systems, machine learning, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, image processing, autonomous vehicles, and haptic effects.

Zac also provides opinions relating to patentability, invalidity, freedom-to-operate, non-infringement, and licensing. He regularly counsels clients on strategic issues and considerations relating to their patent portfolios.

Zac worked with the firm as a summer associate in 2012. While attending law school, he was the Executive Online Editor of the *Wake Forest Law Review* and a member of the Wake Forest Intellectual Property Student Association.

Zac was recognized in 2025, 2026 and 2027 as one of the "Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch" for Patent Law by *The Best Lawyers in America*®. He was recognized as a North Carolina "Rising Star" in 2024, 2025 and 2026 for Intellectual Property by *Super Lawyers* magazine.

## **Experience**

Drafted and prosecuted a significant number of applications for one of the most recognized open-source software companies in the world to secure patent protection for their technologies relating to distributed and cloud computing, containerization and orchestration, operating system functionality, cybersecurity, software provisioning, configuration management, and storage solutions.

Drafted and prosecuted a significant number of applications for a leading analytics company to secure patent protection for their technologies relating forecasting and predictive modeling, machine learning, and artificial intelligence.

Drafted and prosecuted significant number of applications for a leading haptics company to secure patent coverage for their technologies related to user interfaces, embedded tactile output devices and methodologies, and medical devices.

Drafted and prosecuted foundational patents for multiple startup companies in the blockchain space.

## **Education**

Wake Forest University School of Law J.D. (2013) *cum laude*, *Order of the Coif*

Brown University M.S. (2010) Electrical Engineering

University of New Hampshire B.S. (2008) Electrical Engineering, *magna cum laude*

## **Admissions**

North Carolina (2013)

## **Court Admissions**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (2013)

## **Professional & Community Activities**

North Carolina Bar Association, Member

American Bar Association, Member

Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society, Member

## **Insights**

### [News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Edition of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America  
August 20, 2026

### [News Releases](#)

Over 100 Kilpatrick Attorneys Named 2025 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars  
November 25, 2025

### [News Releases](#)

126 Kilpatrick Attorneys Named 2024 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars  
November 11, 2024

### [News Releases](#)

131 Kilpatrick Attorneys Recognized in 2025 Edition of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America®  
August 16, 2024

### [News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Attorneys Named in 2024 North Carolina Super Lawyers  
January 30, 2024