Rodney H. Rothwell

Partner

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Services

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Rodney Rothwell, a patent attorney with over 19 years of experience, specializes in patenting groundbreaking innovations, with a particular emphasis on the convergence of artificial intelligence, machine learning, informatics, and computer-related technologies in the life sciences. His commitment extends beyond traditional patent prosecution and procurement, as he crafts customized patent strategies (including landscape analysis, competitor assessment, global patent filing strategies, defensive and offensive patent strategies, alternative means of protecting intellectual property, and collaborative partnerships) that align with his clients' business goals.

Rodney possesses expertise across a spectrum of disciplines, including bioinformatics, computer vision, autonomous systems, natural language processing, and predictive analytics, particularly at the confluence of artificial intelligence and machine learning within the life sciences domain. His active contributions have significantly impacted advancements in signal detection within liquid biopsy, drug discovery and development, digital pathology, genetic engineering and therapy, and digital health through meticulous and strategic patenting initiatives.

Rodney has been deeply involved in patenting artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies for well over a decade. His success in preparing and obtaining high valued patents in this specialized area highlights his skill in crafting claims that resonate well with patent offices around the world and makes him a recognized authority, contributing significantly to the blending of software technology and life sciences. By staying up-to-date with the latest tech trends, laws, and policies, Rodney offers valuable advice on how these emerging technologies can be best protected. This ensures that inventors, legal teams, and patent examiners understand the details, increasing the chances of obtaining high valued patents.

Experience

Representing a leading healthcare company in intellectual property related services, including patent prosecution. Technologies include bioinformatics/computational biology; pharmaceuticals; diagnostics; clinical trial services; digital pathology; and biotechnology.

Representing a leading clinical laboratory services provider in intellectual property related services, including patent prosecution, freedom to operate analyses, due diligence, and pre-litigation counseling. Technologies include clinical diagnostic services; robotics; bioinformatics/computational biology; genome mapping; genetic testing; gene mapping and counseling; companion diagnostics; blood testing services; and biotechnology.

Representing a number of software development and consumer goods companies in intellectual property related services, including patent prosecution. Technologies include digital assistants/chatbots; virtual assistants and extended reality applications; artificial intelligence and machine learning services; and cloud applications and infrastructure.

Representing a semi-secret research and development facility and organization in intellectual property related services, including patent prosecution. Technologies include bioinformatics/computational biology; systems modeling; gene editing; artificial intelligence and machine learning services; and biotechnology.

Representing a *Fortune* 500 global technology and specialty materials company in multiple IPRs for patents relating to the manufacture of acetic acid.

Representing a large international concessions and construction company in an acquisition of a partial interest in a software company owning rights to toll management software. Performing IP due diligence including open source software analysis and freed-to-operate analysis.

Education

George Mason University Electrical Engineering (2011)

Widener University School of Law J.D. (2004)

Drexel University B.S. (1998) Medical Technology

Admissions

District of Columbia (2018)

Court Admissions

District of Columbia Court of Appeals (2018)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (2007)

Professional & Community Activities

Federal Circuit Bar Association, Vice-Chair of the Corporate Counsel Committee (2019-Present)

Federal Circuit Bar Association, Chair of the USPTO Pro Bono Committee (2015-2019)

Manager of USPTO Pro Bono program in the DC Office (2015-present)

Widener University Law Review, member (2002-2004)

Insights

Publication

Bioinformatics – Eligibility Challenges for Inventions at the Intersection of Biology and Software (Part 2 of a 4 Part Series)

April 29, 2022

Publication

Bioinformatics – Eligibility Challenges for Inventions at the Intersection of Biology and Software (Part 1 of a 4 Part Series)

March 28, 2022

News

Stanford Bid for Gene Inheritance Patent Falls Short Again

March 26, 2021

Perspectives

Takeaways | Requiring Human Inventorship - Opportunities to Advise Whether to Prohibit, Permit, or Require Listing an AI Algorithm as an Inventor - Eastern District of Virginia & European Patent Office

February 16, 2021

Alert

The Time is Now: Opportunities to Advise the E.D. Va. or EPO as to Whether to Prohibit, Permit, or Require Listing an AI Algorithm as an Inventor

February 11, 2021