Kilpatrick

Insights: News

2022 Georgia Legal Awards | Distinguished Leader: Wab Kadaba

JUNE 30, 2022





WAB KADABA IS a partner and chair of the intellectual property department at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton in Atlanta. The department, which has 325 lawyers firmwide, is one of the three largest of its kind in the nation, according to his nominator essay.

"Recognized for his outstanding record as a patent litigator, clients rely on Wab's savvy representation to defend their interests and help them implement their business strategy," the essay said. "In 2021, Wab helped his clients settle several high-stakes matters. For example, Wab led a team representing Cox Communications in a case with a significant amount of potential liability involving Cox's clients, Wynn Casinos and Caesars.

"Both were sued for patent infringement over how their Wi-Fi operated within their casino and hotel environments, and Wab led a team of Kilpatrick Townsend attorneys who defended the case. After Wab's team obtained a highly favorable ruling on the interpretation of certain patent claim terms, Wab helped settle the case on very favorable terms for Cox and the two casinos. Wab's leadership has been instrumental in the strategic growth of Kilpatrick Townsend's IP department and its deepening ties with clients through uncertain times during the COVID-19 pandemic."

The Daily Report asked Kadaba the following questions:

What inspired you to become a lawyer, and what would you credit with maintaining that inspiration?

When I decided to go to law school, I was really interested in finding the intersection of technology and the law. I felt the policy behind promoting innovation through protection of rights was an important one for the betterment of society. Somewhere along the road, I fell in love with the concept of strategy. So my practice has evolved to providing strategic counsel on a variety of business issues that are typically wrapped around an axle of intellectual property.

Could you please describe work on a case or issue that has made you proud to be a lawyer during the past year?

Last year I had the opportunity to help a close friend and colleague position himself for a key position within the current administration. It allowed me to dig into some policy issues to better understand the role and advise him on how to approach the opportunity.

What qualities should a lawyer possess to become a successful and effective leader?

It is important to understand the value of the entire team, rather than focusing on your own contributions. This is true for any leader, not just a leader of lawyers. Empathy and the ability to motivate others to excel in a collaborative way are also very helpful qualities.

How do you see the field of law evolving in the next five to 10 years?

The evolution of the law always follows business. As an IP lawyer, I am very interested in how intellectual property rights will manifest themselves in the Metaverse if that becomes as ubiquitous a part of our lives as some people suggest it will be.

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