

## Nicoletta M. Kennedy

### Partner

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### Services

Asset Creation - Prosecution &  
 Counseling  
 Intellectual Property  
 Patent Litigation  
 Patents  
 Post-Grant Proceedings

### Industries

Consumer Goods  
 Energy  
 Food, Restaurant & Beverage  
 Health & Life Sciences  
 Medical & Surgical Devices  
 Oil & Gas  
 Retail & Consumer Goods

Nicki Kennedy is Co-Leader of Kilpatrick's Chemistry and Life Sciences practice. She is a registered patent attorney who concentrates her practice on patent-related matters with a focus on client counseling, patent prosecution, domestic and international patent portfolio development and management, and post grant proceedings. Additionally, Nicki's practice includes invalidity, patentability, non-infringement, and freedom-to-operate opinions.

Prior to joining the firm, Nicki worked as an associate in a boutique intellectual property law firm in Northern Virginia, where she also focused on patent law. Previously, Nicki was a patent examiner at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office where she examined patent applications in the organic chemistry field, including polymer, pharmaceutical, transdermal and cosmetic patent applications.

Prior to her experience at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Nicki was an associate at a boutique law firm where she focused on import and export law, particularly under the Export Administration Regulations. She also gained technical experience working in a small pharmaceutical research lab.

Nicki is listed in the 2025 and 2026 editions of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* for Intellectual Property: Patent Prosecution. She was recognized as a top patent practitioner in 2026 by *IAM Patent 1000 – The World's Leading Patent Practitioners*. Nicki was named a "Patent Leader" in 2025 by *World IP Review*. She was recognized as a 2018 Washington, D.C. "Rising Star" for Intellectual Property by *Super Lawyers* magazine. In 2020, Nicki was recommended by *Legal 500 US* for Patent Prosecution. In 2023, she received Casa Cornelia's "Pro Bono Publico Award" for her outstanding pro bono contributions in seeking and obtaining asylum for the firm's client, a young boy from Afghanistan who fled to the U.S. for his life after the Taliban took control.

### Experience

Counsel for patentee Celanese in five inter partes review petitions filed by competitor Daicel challenging validity of Celanese patents related to industrial acetic acid production. The Patent Trial and Appeal Board initially ruled in favor of client Celanese, completely denying all five petitions, although requests for rehearing subsequently resulted in the institution of 3 of the 5 IPRs. In June of 2016, the PTAB issued final written decisions in the three IPRs, finding for patent owner Celanese and affirming all instituted claims as not unpatentable. United States Patent and Trademark Office Patent Trial and Appeal Board, Case Numbers IPR2014-01514, IPR2014-01515, IPR2015-000170, IPR2015-00171 and IPR2015-00173.

## **Education**

The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law J.D. (2008) Comparative and International Law Certificate

Randolph-Macon College B.S. (2005) Chemistry, *cum laude*

## **Admissions**

District of Columbia (2017)

New Jersey (2008)

## **Court Admissions**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (2011)

## **Professional & Community Activities**

Jessup Cup Moot Court Competition, Volunteer Judge

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Adjunct Professor of Law, PTAB Practice (2021 Spring Semester)

## **Insights**

### [News Releases](#)

Once Again, Lawdragon Recognizes Kilpatrick Attorneys as Leaders in Global IP  
July 14, 2026

### [News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Attorneys Earn 102 Rankings in 2026 Chambers USA and Global Guides  
June 5, 2026

### [Perspectives](#)

5 Key Takeaways | Discretionary Denials in IPRs: New Framework, Navigating the Evolving Landscape, Strategies for Survival  
November 24, 2025

### [Events](#)

Unsettled Expectations: Navigating Recent Developments at the PTAB

August 5, 2025

## [News Releases](#)

Lawdragon Recognizes Kilpatrick Attorneys as Leaders in Global IP

June 11, 2025