

Charles W. Calkins

Partner

1001 West Fourth Street, Winston-Salem, NC USA 27101

t 336.607.7315 | f 336.734.2606

4208 Six Forks Road

Suite 1400, Raleigh, NC USA 27609

t 919.420.1815 | f 919.420.1800

ccalkins@ktslaw.com



Services

Asset Creation - Prosecution &
Counseling

Intellectual Property

Mergers & Acquisitions

Patent Due Diligence

Patents

Post-Grant Proceedings

Industries

Health & Life Sciences

Charles Calkins is Co-Leader of Kilpatrick's Chemistry and Life Sciences practice. He practices intellectual property law with a focus on patent law and intellectual property transactions. Charles, a registered patent attorney, has more than 35 years of experience in client counseling and portfolio management in patent procurement, licensing and enforcement, primarily in the life sciences, chemical, medical and computer software arts. His current practice includes a focus on the corporate and transactional aspects of intellectual property, including licensing, research and development/joint venture agreements and merger, acquisition and/or equity investment due diligence. He has been involved in well over 100 transactions in a variety of technologies including aerospace, pharmaceuticals, commodity futures trading, medical devices, personalized genetic medicine, semiconductors and DNA sequencing technologies including NextGen sequencing.

Charles' experiences allow him to understand the business value of intellectual property and work with clients to maximize return on their investments and/or acquisitions. Charles has worked with companies, investment banks, private equity groups, venture capitalists and other institutional investment groups to conduct due diligence and provide counseling relating to potential investments, acquisitions and/or mergers ranging in size from several hundreds of thousands of dollars to more than one billion dollars. In addition to his legal practice, Charles is a Chair of the Piedmont Angel Network, an investor in over forty emerging technology companies and active in the regional and national technology communities. He is also past Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board at University of North Carolina Greensboro.

Charles is AV® rated by Martindale-Hubbell* and has been named to Business North Carolina's "Legal Elite" list. He has been recognized as a North Carolina "Super Lawyer" in the areas of Intellectual Property and Mergers & Acquisitions by *Super Lawyers* magazine. He was recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Intellectual Property Law in 2018 and the 11 years immediately preceding and for Biotechnology and Life Sciences Practice, Intellectual Property Litigation, Patent Litigation, and Patent Law in 2027 and the eight years

immediately preceding. He was also named a "Greensboro Lawyer of the Year" in 2013, 2015 and 2018 in the area of Patent Law, in 2017 and 2019 in the area of Patent Litigation, a "Triad Lawyer of the Year" in 2020 in the area of Intellectual Property Litigation, a "Triad Lawyer of the Year" in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2025 in the area of Patent Law, and a "Triad Lawyer of the Year" in 2024 in the area of Patent Litigation by *The Best Lawyers in America*®. Charles was named a "Law Impact Leader" by Business Leader magazine. He was named a "Global IP Luminary" by *IP World* for his exemplary work in the intellectual property legal area. In 2016, Charles was recognized among the Triad's "Most Influential" professional executives by the *Triad Business Journal* for the 12th consecutive year. He is listed in the 2026 and the 14 immediately preceding editions of *Chambers USA* in the area of Intellectual Property and he is listed in the 2025 and the 12 preceding editions as #1 in the area of Intellectual Property. Charles has been recognized as an "IP Star" in 2026 and the 13 years immediately preceding by *Managing Intellectual Property* magazine. He was recognized as a top patent practitioner in 2026 and the 11 years immediately preceding by *IAM Patent 1000 – The World's Leading Patent Practitioners*. Charles was named a "Patent Leader" in 2023, 2024 and 2025 by *World IP Review*. He was recommended by *Legal 500 US* in 2015, 2016, 2019, 2021 and 2025 for Patent Prosecution and again in 2016 for Patent Portfolio Management and Licensing. In 2025, Charles was named to the Capital Pro Bono High Honor Roll, which recognizes the contributions of those D.C. Bar members who donated 100 hours or more of pro bono service during the previous calendar year. He is a former Chair of the North Carolina Bar Association's Intellectual Property Section and remains active on the Section Council.

Experience

Represent a leading clinical laboratory services provider in intellectual property related services, including freedom to operate analyses, patent license negotiation and review, collaborative research and development agreement preparation and analysis, patent prosecution and litigation services and due diligence and pre-litigation counseling. Technologies include clinical diagnostic services; robotics; bioinformatics; genome mapping; genetic testing; gene mapping and counseling; companion diagnostics; blood testing services, and biotechnology.

Represented a major U.S. financial institution its investments and equipment loans to emerging life sciences companies, including performing merger and acquisition due diligence, document preparation and negotiation, and transaction closing work. The due diligence work involved reviewing patent estates and related intellectual property assets, analysis of joint ventures, collaborative research agreement and patent licenses, for technologies including, small and large molecule therapeutics, medical devices, recombinant DNA technologies, microfluidic devices and related laboratory techniques and equipment.

The firm served as lead counsel on behalf of a health care company in the Southern District of Illinois against charges of patent infringement by Document Generation Corporation, an Acacia subsidiary. The lawsuit relates to electronic medical record technology. Defendants in the case were successful in persuading the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to reexamine the patent in suit. The litigation is currently stayed pending the outcome of the reexamination proceeding.

Provided intellectual property related services, including patent preparation and prosecution in automotive fabrics, knitwear and medical prostheses' fabrics. We also successfully defended the client's manufacturing contractor in a patent infringement action relating to automotive storage nets (trunk nets). We negotiated a dismissal of the action. We also represent our client in patent counseling, prosecution, and transactional matters, including negotiating contracts with customers and suppliers.

The firm assisted a global supplier of systems and services to the aerospace and defense industries with their acquisition of optical and infrared sensing technology from a privately-held defense contractor. The firm's work included pre-acquisition due diligence relating to the technology and related intellectual property. The firm also assisted in the preparation and review of acquisition and licensing documents in the transaction.

The firm assisted an aerospace manufacturer with their acquisition of semiconductor and infrared sensing technology. The firm's work included pre-acquisition and pre-licensing due diligence relating to the technology and related intellectual property. The firm also assisted in the preparation and review of acquisition and licensing documents in the transaction.

The firm assists one of the world's largest clinical laboratory network's in pre-acquisition and pre-licensing due diligence relating to technology assets, including genetic markers, laboratory technologies and methodologies, microfluidics and related intellectual property. The firm also assists in the preparation and review of acquisition and licensing documents resulting from the due diligence.

The firm assisted one of the world's largest clinical laboratory networks in its acquisition of a leading laboratory automation supplier. Our work included due diligence on the supplier's laboratory equipment and robotics technology. We also assisted with acquisition documents and post-closing transition of the intellectual property.

The firm assisted one of the world's largest clinical laboratory networks in its acquisition of an international biotechnology laboratory. Our work included due diligence on the laboratory's oncology, virology, microfluidics and reagent technology and over 200 related patents and applications. We also assisted with acquisition documents and post-closing transition of the intellectual property.

Represents one of the largest apparel companies in the world in protecting their hosiery, hosiery machinery, knitwear, casual wear, shoes, lingerie and related clothing technologies through the use of patents, trade secrets, trademarks and copyrights. The firm counsels the apparel company in IP related enforcement and transactional matters including patent and trademark infringement actions, patent licensing, freedom to operate opinions, consulting contracts, patent licenses, invalidity and non-infringement studies, patent enforcement studies and advertising. The firm protects key products worldwide with both design and utility patents and we work closely with the key technical and business personnel to identify and protect innovations with patents to achieve the company's strategic corporate goals. We counsel the company with respect to its overall patent strategy, provide licensing services, and evaluate third-party intellectual property rights.

Represented supplier of aerospace systems and services with patent and intellectual property related transactional issues in merger and acquisition transactions including due diligence and agreement drafting and negotiation. The firm also provided patent counseling, including non-infringement and freedom to operate counseling, and patent acquisition services. Technologies include remote sensing, optics, semiconductors and aluminum alloys.

Represented a Massachusetts consulting firm in the preparation and negotiation of an asset purchase agreement wherein they sold patent assets and related underlying financial services product technology.

Represents a *Fortune* 200 global consumer goods corporation and provides advice related to protecting their food production processes and packing and food product technologies through the use of patents, trade secrets, trademarks, and copyrights. Additionally, we provide advice related to enforcement and transactional matters including patent and trademark infringement actions, patent licensing, freedom to operate opinions, consulting contracts, patent licenses, invalidity and non-infringement studies, and patent enforcement studies.

Represent Wake Forest University Health Sciences in preparing and prosecuting numerous U.S. and international patent applications, including applications relating to cancer diagnostics and/or treatment, the treatment of neuronal dysfunction. For example, patents have been granted for methods to prevent neurodegeneration, to detect elevated MAP-2 in melanoma, and the use of angiotensin antagonists to treat cancer. Also, the firm assisted with patent license counseling and negotiation, inventorship disputes, and inter-university agreement negotiations.

Advised a global chemical company in patent acquisition, including patent application preparation and prosecution in the U.S. and foreign countries, for their carbon black, polymer emulsion, masterbatch, and polymer compositions inventions. The firm has appeared with the company in proceedings in the U.S. and European Patent Offices. Additionally, we have assisted the company with patent acquisition in the tantalum, niobium, and uranium ore processing, disposal, products and related technologies, and fumed silica technologies.

Education

Boston University J.D. (1984)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology S.B. Chemical Engineering & Life Sciences

Admissions

North Carolina (1995)

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

U.S. Court of Federal Claims

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

U.S. Supreme Court

Professional & Community Activities

North Carolina Bar Association Intellectual Property Section, Section Council Member and Past Chair

University of North Carolina Greensboro, Scientific Advisory Board

AIPLA, Biotech/Diagnostic Subcommittee

Greensboro Symphony Orchestra, Board Member

Raven's Pursuit, Board Member

The Prairie Club, Board Member
Piedmont Angel Network, Co-Chair

Insights

News Releases

Kilpatrick Attorneys Once Again Earn Outstanding Recognitions in 2027 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®
August 20, 2026

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

Events

Advanced Patent Law Seminar
February 12, 2026

News Releases

Lawdragon Recognizes Kilpatrick Attorneys as Leaders in Global IP
June 11, 2025