William L. Shaffer

Partner

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Services

Asset Creation - Prosecution & Counseling

Intellectual Property

Patents

Post-Grant Proceedings

Industries

Electronics & Computer Technology

Technology

Bill Shaffer focuses his practice on patent prosecution and counseling, patent portfolio building/management, patent analysis and post-grant patent procedures, including reexamination and reissue proceedings. He has been a trusted advisor to a number of the largest companies in the electronics and software industries helping the companies grow their patent portfolios and navigate complex patent issues. Specific technologies Bill has experience with include, among others, consumer products, thin film processing, semiconductor manufacturing equipment, wafer inspection and metrology, chip-level packaging, computer generated imagery (CGI) animation, LiDAR, photovoltaic systems and films, computer architecture and software- and Internet-based technologies.

During the course of his 25+ year career as a patent attorney, Bill has assisted patent litigation efforts in jurisdictions including the Northern District of California, the Eastern District of Texas, the Eastern District of Virginia and the International Trade Commission. He has also been the lead or co-lead attorney for a dozen reexaminations, including both inter partes and ex parte matters, many of which involved patents in litigation, representing both patent owners and challengers. Bill has also advised prominent venture capital backed start-ups and provided in depth analysis of individual patents and patent portfolios in connection with venture capital investments and corporate acquisitions.

Prior to joining the legal profession, Bill worked both as a software engineer writing assembly language code for consumer electronics products as well as writing ADA code for a large government-based contract in the defense industry.

Bill was recognized as a Northern California "Super Lawyer" in the area of Intellectual Property by *Super Lawyers* magazine (2011-2018). He was recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Patent Law (2021-2023). Bill was recommended by *Legal 500 US* for Patent Prosecution (2012-2017, 2021, 2023). He was named an "IP Star" by *Managing Intellectual Property* magazine (2013-2026). Bill was recognized as a top patent practitioner by *IAM Patent 1000 – The World's Leading Patent Practitioners* (2013-2026). He was named by

Legal Media Group in its 2013 Guide to the World's Leading Patent Practitioners. Bill was listed as "Best of the Bar" in 2014 by the *San Diego Business Journal*.

Experience

Lead counsel successfully defended multiple reexaminations on a family of computer patents with concurrent litigation, enabling over $100 million in licensing revenue for our client.

Education

Southern Methodist University J.D. (1992) Thompson Scholar, *The International Lawyer,* Articles Editor

Vanderbilt University B.S. (1988) Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Admissions

California (1992)

Court Admissions

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (1993)

Professional & Community Activities

American Bar Association

American Intellectual Property Law Association

San Francisco Intellectual Property Law Association

Insights

News Releases

Kilpatrick Attorneys Continue to Earn Distinction on Managing Intellectual Property's Prestigious IP Stars List

June 2, 2025

News Releases

Kilpatrick Continues to Earn Outstanding Rankings in Annual IAM Patent 1000

May 29, 2025

News Releases

Kilpatrick Continues Tradition of Impressive Number of Attorneys Named Managing Intellectual Property’s IP Stars

June 10, 2024

News Releases

Kilpatrick Townsend Continues to Earn Phenomenal Rankings in Annual IAM Patent 1000

July 7, 2023

News Releases

Kilpatrick Townsend Earns Top Rankings in 2023 Legal 500 US

June 12, 2023