April Abele Isaacson

Retired Partner

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Services

Life Sciences Patent Disputes

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Patent Litigation

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Industries

Health & Life Sciences

Medical & Surgical Devices

Electronics & Computer Technology

Technology

April Abele Isaacson retired from the firm after 30 years as a trial attorney, most recently serving as Managing Partner of the San Francisco office. Over the course of her career, April focused on patent litigation and related disputes, trying cases across a broad spectrum of technologies—from computer and telecommunications hardware and software to life sciences, medical devices, and chemical products. A registered U.S. patent attorney, she represented both plaintiffs and defendants in high-stakes matters nationwide.

April advised clients through every phase of patent litigation, from early strategic counseling through trial and appeal. She regularly counseled life sciences companies on patent and regulatory strategies from initial discovery through clinical development and product approval. She led teams in federal courts across the country, handled PTAB proceedings, and argued appeals before the Federal Circuit.

Before joining the firm, April spent nearly five years as in-house counsel at a public specialty pharmaceutical company, where she provided comprehensive intellectual property and regulatory counseling and managed numerous Hatch–Waxman litigations. She previously served as a partner at a major international law firm and at a predecessor to Kilpatrick.

April began her legal career as a U.S. Navy JAG Corps prosecutor, where she won several high-profile jury cases and earned multiple achievement medals and letters of commendation for superior service and leadership. Prior to law school, she worked as an HIV/AIDS research scientist at Boston Children's Hospital.

Throughout her career, April was widely recognized for her excellence and leadership. She was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2024–2026) for Biotechnology and Life Sciences Practice, named to the IAM Strategy 300 (2021–2022), and recognized in *IAM Patent 1000* (2024–2025). She was selected as a "Diversity Champion" in 2024 and a "Patent Leader" in 2024 and 2025 by *World IP Review*. She was honored as one of

the “Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business” by the *San Francisco Business Times* in 2022. April is also the Founder and Host of *Sidebars*, a podcast focused on women and diversity in the law.

Experience

April’s practice encompassed a wide range of complex patent litigation and strategic counseling across the technology and life sciences sectors. Her experience included:

Pharmaceuticals & Hatch-Waxman

- Represented pharmaceutical companies in numerous Hatch–Waxman litigations and other patent litigations across a range of therapeutic areas including successful Federal Circuit appeals.
- Represented pharmaceutical companies in adversarial actions involving non-practicing entities and in joint development and inventorship disputes.
- Counseled clinical-stage and global biopharmaceutical companies on patent portfolio development, development partnerships, regulatory strategies, and product lifecycle planning from discovery through clinical development and approval.
- Served as an expert witness in a confidential arbitration related to a Hatch–Waxman trial.

Life Sciences & Medical Technologies

- Represented medical device and diagnostic companies in patent and license disputes including successful Federal Circuit appeals.
- Represented agricultural and chemical companies in patent litigation.

Technology & Electronics

- Represented technology and electronics companies in patent litigation involving hardware, software, and communications systems including successful Federal Circuit appeals.
- Advised clients on disputes relating to semiconductors, data storage, and specialized electronic technologies.

Education

Mount Holyoke College A.B. (1988) Biological Sciences, *cum laude*

The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine M.S. (1990) Pharmacological and Physiological Sciences

Vanderbilt University School of Law J.D. (1995)

Admissions

California (1995)

District of Columbia (1997)

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Professional & Community Activities

CalVet Women Veterans Division, Member

U.S. Navy, Prosecutor/Officer-in-Charge, Criminal Defense and Legal Assistance Attorney (1995-1999 Active Duty; 1999-2003 Reserve)

San Francisco Intellectual Property Law Association, Member

American Intellectual Property Law Association, Member

Federal Circuit Bar Association (FCBA), Member

Law360, Life Sciences Editorial Advisory Board (2023)

Insights

News

Kilpatrick's New SF Head Enjoys Thrill of Patent Work 'Puzzle'

January 26, 2026

Events

Patent Law Update: Notable Cases and Their Implications for In-House Counsel

August 5, 2025

News Releases

Kilpatrick Achieves Record Number of Attorneys Named 2025 World IP Review Leaders

June 5, 2025

News Releases

Kilpatrick Continues to Earn Outstanding Rankings in Annual IAM Patent 1000

May 29, 2025

Events

Advanced Invalidity Strategies: IPRs, Reexams, and Litigation Venues