

22nd Symposium on Emerging Intellectual Property Issues

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SMU Dedman School of Law

Speaker Biographies

in order of appearance

[David O. Taylor](#) is a Professor of Law at the SMU Dedman School of Law in Dallas, Texas. He also founded and serves as a Co-Director of the school's Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation. Professor Taylor earned his bachelor of science, *magna cum laude*, in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University and his juris doctor, *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School. Prior to law school, Professor Taylor worked as an applications engineer at National Instruments Corporation in Austin, Texas. While in law school, he served as an extern for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Boston, as a member of both the Harvard Journal of Law & Technology and the Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy, and as President of the Harvard Law School Texas Club.

After graduating from law school, Professor Taylor clerked for the Honorable Sharon Prost of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Professor Taylor also worked for seven years at the law firm of Baker Botts LLP in its Dallas office. While at Baker Botts, Professor Taylor engaged in patent litigation in various district courts and at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. His litigation experience includes both bench and jury trials. A registered patent attorney, he also gained significant experience in the fields of intellectual property licensing and patent prosecution. During his time in practice he assisted with several advanced patent law courses at SMU Dedman School of Law, including Patent Litigation, Intellectual Property Licensing, and Patent Prosecution, and successfully represented clients in pro bono matters, including before the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals.

At SMU, Professor Taylor regularly teaches in the areas of contracts and patent law. His scholarship focuses on patent law, patent policy, patent litigation, and civil procedure. Professor Taylor has published articles in various journals, including the *Connecticut Law Review*, *Georgia Law Review*, *New York University Law Review*, and in an assortment of intellectual property specialty journals. He has also contributed to two books. His publications have been cited by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and various district courts.

A frequent speaker, he has made academic presentations at law schools across the United States, including Boston College, California Berkeley, Cardozo, Chicago-Kent, DePaul, Houston, Kansas, San Diego, Stanford, and Texas, and internationally in Chongqing, China; Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; and Taipei, Taiwan. He also is a regular speaker at various continuing legal education (CLE) events, including events sponsored by the Dallas Bar Association, the Eastern District of Texas Bar Association, the Center for American and International Law, and the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies.

In addition to these activities, Professor Taylor has organized numerous symposia and conferences, helped launch SMU's Patent and Trademark Clinics, and helped draft the proposal to secure the funding to launch the Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation. He serves on several law school

committees and has served as an advisor to both the *SMU Science and Technology Law Review* and *The International Lawyer*. Professor Taylor also serves as an advisor to the law school's chapter of the Federalist Society, which regularly hosts speakers addressing hot topics in the field of constitutional law. He has also taught a class focused on the First Amendment's religion clauses. SMU granted Professor Taylor tenure in 2016.

Professor Taylor serves in various leadership positions. He has served as a member of the Advisory Council for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and on the Executive Board of the Institute for Law and Technology at the Center for American and International Law. He has served on various committees and task forces of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), including its Amicus Committee, Legislation Committee, Patentable Subject Matter Task Force, and Administrative Procedures Task Force. He has served as the Chair of the Intellectual Property Law Section of the Dallas Bar Association (DBA), and as the Chair of the Computer Law Section of the DBA.

Professor Taylor regularly serves as an expert and consultant in intellectual property disputes both within and outside the United States. Most recently, he has been appointed as a Special Master to assist with patent infringement disputes pending in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

He has received several accolades. Professor Taylor is the recipient of a Thomas Edison Innovation Fellowship from the Center for the Protection of Intellectual Property at the George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School. He has also been named a founding Barrister of the Honorable Barbara M.G. Lynn American Inn of Court, an Honorary Barrister of the SMU Dedman School of Law Board of Advocates, and an Outstanding Graduate of the Irving Independent School District. In addition to these awards, he has received numerous research and course development grants.

Outside of his work at the law school and the field of intellectual property law, Professor Taylor has engaged in public service with diverse groups including Advocates for Community Transformation, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, and the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program. He has also served on the Board of Directors of Cho-Yeh Camp and Conference Center.

Professor Taylor is married. Together with his wife Rachel, he enjoys spending time with his three children: Caroline, Emily, and Joshua.

[John T. Tower](#) represents clients in prosecution of patent applications in the United States and internationally, due diligence and licensing for patent portfolios, and both prosecuting and defending complex patent, trade secret and copyright litigation. A registered patent attorney and electrical engineer, he brings his technical acumen to bear for clients in the electronics, telecommunications, computer software, digital advertising, and medical device industries.

John has successfully represented clients in asserting their patents against competitors and defending clients against patent claims from competitors and non-practicing entities, both in litigation and in non-litigation enforcements. In addition to his federal district court litigation experience, John also has represented clients in both Inter Partes Review and Reexamination procedures before the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (both pre- and post-AIA). His outstanding technical expertise has helped resolve dozens of patent disputes on business terms, obtain

favorable claim construction orders on *Markman* briefing, and leverage clients' existing portfolios to create new revenue streams.

John also co-authored amicus briefs before the Federal Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court in the high-profile case *The Association for Molecular Pathology et al v. Myriad Genetics, Inc.*, which addressed the issue of the patentability of human genetic material (specifically, the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes and mutations thereof that correlate to an increased risk for breast and ovarian cancers). The U.S. Supreme Court eventually adopted a position consistent with the outcome urged by the *amici* the firm represented.

Prior to entering Texas Wesleyan University Law School (now Texas A&M University School of Law), John earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

[Joseph Cleveland](#) of Brackett & Ellis, PC, is a civil trial lawyer with more than 30 years of experience in commercial and intellectual property litigation, representing entrepreneurs and public and private companies in complex disputes across state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. He has played a significant role in shaping Texas trade-secrets law, including helping draft the Texas Uniform Trade Secrets Act and leading the State Bar's Trade Secrets Committee in developing the Texas Pattern Jury Charges for trade-secret misappropriation. Mr. Cleveland has also served as Chair of the State Bar of Texas Intellectual Property Law Section, authored Fredrick Garland "Fritz" Lanham – Father of American Trademark Protection, and is widely recognized for excellence, including AV Preeminent rating and repeated honors from Best Lawyers and Super Lawyers.

[Chase Cobern](#), Partner at Munck, Wilson, Mandala is a trial and appellate lawyer known for winning high-stakes motions and appeals in consequential disputes, with advocacy experience before the Supreme Court of Texas, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Federal, Fifth, and Ninth Circuits (including en banc), the U.S. Patent Trial and Appeal Board, Texas appellate courts, and trial courts nationwide. Clients and colleagues value his ability to cut through noise to identify and advance the strongest arguments through a disciplined, results-driven approach that avoids unproductive fights. Craig's strategy has delivered success across a broad range of matters, including patent infringement, trade secret misappropriation, First Amendment and anti-SLAPP challenges, breach of contract, noncompete covenants, employment discrimination, real estate disputes, breach of fiduciary duty, business torts, and securities fraud.

[Leiza Dolghih](#) opened her own firm in 2022, after co-chairing a trade secrets and non-compete disputes section at one of the nation's largest law firms. She represents both employers and employees in a full spectrum of employment matters, including breaches of employment agreements, wage-and-hour violations, discrimination and retaliation claims, unpaid commissions, severance disputes, wrongful termination, and related employment claims, and she regularly litigates temporary restraining order and temporary injunction hearings involving non-compete agreements and trade secrets. A frequent writer and speaker on Texas non-compete litigation, Leiza is board certified in Labor and Employment Law in Texas, an honor held by fewer than 6% of Texas lawyers, and has been repeatedly recognized by D Magazine, Super Lawyers, and Best Lawyers in America.

[Tim Hudson](#), a partner at Barnes & Thornburg, is a seasoned trial lawyer who provides tailored representation in product liability and mass torts in multidistrict litigation, as well as commercial litigation and trade secrets. He currently serves as national coordinating and trial counsel for one of the nation's largest medical device manufacturers. With more than 20 years of experience, he has successfully tried cases to verdict across multiple states, regularly defends pharmaceutical, medical device, and life sciences companies, and advises businesses on complex disputes involving product liability, business torts, and trade secrets, including FDA labeling, compliance, and regulatory matters. A leader in the Dallas legal community, he serves as chair of the State Bar of Texas Trade Secret Committee and is a frequent author and speaker on Texas trade secret law, with repeated recognition from D Magazine and Texas Super Lawyers.

[Gregory Howison](#), a partner at Munck, Wilson, Mandala, is a registered U.S. Patent Attorney with more than 41 years of experience, specializing in software, telecommunications, semiconductors, e-commerce, life sciences, including medical devices, machine learning applications in clinical trials, and polymer compounds. A founding partner of Howison & Arnott LLP, which he established in 1999 with a focus on intellectual property, Greg has secured significant patent coverage for major technologies. He regularly advises patentees and licensees in U.S. and international patent licensing negotiations, including matters involving Japan and China, and has served as lead counsel in numerous Inter Partes Reviews before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board for both patent owners and petitioners. Before entering law practice, Greg spent over nine years as a design engineer in high-frequency communications and digital and analog design, with industry experience at Westinghouse Defense Center, Texas Instruments, and Rockwell International.

[Ira Matsil](#), a founder of Slater Matsil, focuses his practice on the technical and strategic aspects of patent portfolio management, including patent licensing, litigation support, opinion work on infringement and validity, and all phases of patent prosecution, such as reexaminations and reissues. Drawing on his background at a Fortune 200 technology company and his training as an electrical engineer, Ira helps clients align intellectual property strategy with broader business objectives, leveraging deep technical fluency and innovative problem-solving to protect and maximize the value of their IP assets. He routinely advises large domestic and international corporations on their most complex patent matters while also working closely with growing companies to develop and refine their portfolios in collaboration with engineers, managers, and in-house counsel. Before private practice, he worked at Texas Instruments as a lead engineer and program manager and later in TI's legal department as a patent agent and attorney, where he was involved in semiconductor licensing negotiations and patent prosecution across multiple technologies.

[Jerry Selinger](#), a partner at Patterson + Sheridan, LLP, is a veteran patent litigation attorney with more than three decades of experience litigating complex intellectual property disputes, known for his ability to identify core issues and pursue efficient, results-driven strategies without wasting resources on low-value arguments. As the firm's lead patent litigator, he has served as lead trial counsel in more than 100 patent cases on both sides of the docket, trying cases to juries in federal and state courts nationwide and securing outcomes ranging from a \$15 million infringement judgment for patent owners to complete defense verdicts and "take-nothing" judgments for accused infringers, including a jury defense verdict in Marshall, Texas. Jerry combines high-level

strategic judgment with a hands-on approach, remaining deeply involved in day-to-day litigation decisions rather than delegating cases away, a practice that has fostered long-standing client relationships and repeat engagements. He is also active in shaping patent law through writing, teaching, and leadership, having filed influential amicus briefs on behalf of the American Intellectual Property Law Association in cases such as *Tafas v. Dudas*, *Alice Corp. v. CLS Bank*, and *Samsung v. Apple*, earning the AIPLA Project Award for his work in *Tafas*.

[Sari Mazzurco](#) is an Assistant Professor of Law at SMU Dedman School of Law. Professor Mazzurco's teaching and scholarship focus on law and technology and intellectual property. She writes on the role and limits of law in addressing social, political, and cultural issues associated with digital technologies, information markets, and creative expression.

Professor Mazzurco's work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Cardozo Law Review*, *Indiana Law Journal*, *Boston University Law Review*, *Fordham Intellectual Property, Media, and Entertainment Law Journal*, *Columbia Journal of Law and the Arts*, *European Intellectual Property Review*, and the *Federal Circuit Bar Journal*.

Before joining SMU Dedman Law, Professor Mazzurco earned a Ph.D. in Law at Yale University, where she served as a Resident Fellow at the Yale Information Society Project. She previously worked as an associate at Covington & Burling LLP where she counseled clients on data privacy, defamation, copyright, and trademark issues, advised on technology transactions, and represented sports and media companies in litigation. She also clerked for the Honorable Thomas L. Ambro on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Professor Mazzurco received her J.D. from Stanford Law School and her B.A. from Georgetown University with Honors with Distinction in Government. She also served as a U.S. Department of State Boren Fellow to Israel, where she studied technology diplomacy.

[Matt Acosta](#), a partner at Platt Richmond, is a complex commercial and intellectual property litigator and adviser with broad experience handling patent, trademark, and copyright disputes, as well as matters involving trade secrets, unfair competition, breach of contract and warranty, banking, and insurance. He counsels clients at every stage of litigation, crafting cost-effective strategies, managing and reducing discovery burdens, negotiating favorable settlements, and trying cases. Matt has litigated matters nationwide, including in Illinois, Washington, Florida, Utah, Delaware, Georgia, California, and Texas, with appellate experience before the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fifth and Federal Circuits. In addition to litigation, Matt advises clients on intellectual property strategy and protection, including trademark prosecution before the USPTO, infringement and liability analyses, and navigating the relative costs and benefits of patent, trademark, and trade secret protection, serving clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to technology-focused businesses in consumer electronics, biomedical, internet services, mobile applications, and telecommunications. After law school, Matt clerked for Judge Leonard Davis of the Eastern District of Texas and previously interned for judges on the Western District of Texas and the Texas Third Court of Appeals.

[Morgan J. Delabar](#), an associate with Holland & Knight, practices litigation and dispute resolution across commercial, financial, employment, healthcare, hospitality, and intellectual property matters, as well as regulatory compliance and government investigations in the banking sector. She represents companies in state and federal courts and ADR, handling disputes involving breach of contract, fraud, misappropriation, noncompete covenants, patent infringement, and property claims, with hands-on experience in trial and motion practice, depositions, e-discovery, settlement facilitation, and trial strategy. She also advises financial services clients on regulatory obligations and has represented institutions and individuals in FTC and FDIC investigations. In healthcare, she has served as interim general counsel to a Texas managed care organization, representing it before the Texas Department of Insurance and in hundreds of mediations, experience she now leverages for health insurance clients on both sides of litigation.

[Ozz Siddiq](#) currently serves as Chief Intellectual Property Counsel at Lennox International, where he has overseen the management and strategic development of the company's domestic and international patent portfolio since July 2014. In addition to his corporate role, Ozz holds appointments at Southern Methodist University as Chief Patent Counsel and Chief IT Counsel, where he directs the SMU Patent Clinic and serves as an Adjunct Professor, advising on intellectual property strategy while training law students in hands-on patent practice. Earlier in his career, Ozz practiced at Baker Botts LLP as an intellectual property associate, working on patent prosecution, patent litigation, and technology transfer matters across a range of industries. His technical and product-focused background includes prior experience at NIC Inc., where he contributed to the development of Oklahoma's official state portal, as well as a program manager internship at Microsoft. Ozz earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Houston Law Center and holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the University of Oklahoma, grounding his legal practice in a strong technical foundation.

[Craig C. Carpenter](#) is a partner at BakerHostetler. With an innovative practice that spans technology and commercial transactions, privacy and intellectual property, Craig Carpenter provides a holistic approach to the complex legal challenges clients face. Craig's unique combination of trademark, copyright, digital media, licensing and data privacy experience enables him to develop practical, business-minded solutions for innovative clients across industries that range from individuals and start-ups to multi-nationals.

Craig advises clients on intellectual property and data issues in M&A and other commercial transactions, intellectual property licensing and development, data collection and privacy, service agreements (SaaS, HaaS), entertainment, media and online marketing and branding. He partners with clients on the front end to help draft and implement strategy, policy and agreements in these areas, but he is also sought out for his experience with online compliance and enforcement issues. Craig serves as the leader of the Dallas office's Digital Assets and Data Management Practice Group, as well as the co-lead for the Privacy Governance and Technology Transactions team.

[Tamera Bennett](#), a partner at Harper & Bates, LLP, is a seasoned entertainment and intellectual property lawyer with more than 25 years of experience advising content creators, rights holders, businesses, and high-net-worth individuals on protecting and monetizing creative assets, with a particular focus on trademark prosecution, music and content licensing, and the complex

intersection of copyright, estate planning, and legacy music catalogs. A trusted adviser to both creators and users of content, she regularly navigates royalty streams, evaluates copyright termination rights, and structures licensing deals designed to preserve long-term value, including high-stakes matters involving inherited song and sound recording rights, posthumous royalties, and rights of publicity. After more than two decades as a successful solo practitioner, Tamera joined Harper & Bates LLP in Dallas as a partner in January 2025, where she serves as counsel to award-winning artists, songwriters, and their estates. She is also a prominent voice in the field, having co-hosted the Entertainment Law Update Podcast since 2008, contributed commentary to Billboard and Texas Lawyer, and completed four terms on the Texas Chapter Board of Governors for the Recording Academy.

[Lisa Normand](#) of Platt Richmond brings a distinctive blend of AmLaw 100 trademark experience and real-world creative insight to her practice, having managed global trademark portfolios for some of the world's most recognizable brands across the full lifecycle of trademark law, including domestic and international clearance, prosecution, enforcement, and complex opposition and cancellation proceedings before the TTAB. What sets Lisa apart is her parallel career as an accomplished film producer, with projects that have premiered at major festivals such as SXSW and Tribeca Film Festival, giving her a rare dual-lens perspective as both lawyer and creator. This firsthand understanding of the creative economy allows her to deliver strategic, entrepreneurial counsel that goes beyond conventional legal advice, informed by how brands and creative works are actually built, used, and valued in practice.

[Shani Shisha](#) is an Assistant Professor of Law at SMU Dedman School of Law, where he teaches and writes in intellectual property law with a focus on copyright, art, and the intersection of law and technology. His scholarship has appeared or is forthcoming in leading journals including the New York University Law Review, Southern California Law Review, Boston College Law Review, and the Harvard Journal of Law & Technology, and has earned significant recognition, including Harvard Law School's 2023 Irving Oberman Memorial Prize in Intellectual Property and the 2022 Foundations of Private Law Prize. His work on copyright remedies was named among the most important and timely articles on technology and law in 2022, while his article on copyright formalities was selected as one of the best IP articles of 2023 and included in West/Thomson's Intellectual Property Law Review. Professor Shisha holds a doctorate from Harvard Law School, where his award-winning dissertation offered an interdisciplinary analysis of copyright law, and prior to joining SMU, he taught at Harvard as a fellow with the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society and the Project on the Foundations of Private Law, teaching courses on intellectual property, law and technology, and private law.