

# RICHARD W. WARNER

PRINCIPAL / DETROIT METRO OFFICE

Rick serves as a *trusted advisor* to start-ups and emerging companies, elite international businesses, and Fortune 500 corporations. For more than three decades, he has worked with businesses on patent management strategies that protect and expand their IP assets in the U.S. and abroad. Rick's friendly demeanor and clear, honest, and direct communication style allow him to establish immediate credibility. He is dedicated to continuously earning not only his client's respect, but also their complete satisfaction regarding the legal services he provides.

Rick's robust practice focuses on patent prosecution, portfolio management, and strategic counseling. Rick prepares and prosecutes patent and trademark applications, as well as drafts legal opinions and performs investigations regarding due diligence, design arounds, patentability, invalidity, infringement, and freedom-to-practice. In addition, Rick is involved in enforcement and licensing in order to safeguard valuable IP assets from infringers and trolls.

## PRACTICE AREAS

Patents; Trademarks & Service Marks; PTAB Proceedings

## INDUSTRIES

Automotive & Autonomous Vehicles; Consumer Electronics; Consumer Products; Electrical, Computer & Internet; Image Processing, Lasers & Optics; Mechanical & Electromechanical; Medical Devices; Pharmaceutical & Biotechnology; Semiconductor Processing & Devices; Software & Information Technology; Telecommunications & Wireless Technology



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## KEY MATTERS

- Counsels in-house counsel of medical device company with over \$17B in annual revenues on a range of intellectual property issues, including patent portfolio and prosecution strategy, freedom-to-operate analysis, product clearance and transactional matters
- Obtained patent protection and advised on an aggressive prosecution strategy for medical device company to obtain comprehensive protection for a division with over \$645M in annual revenue
- Entrusted by foreign patent firms to handle United States patent and trademark prosecution matters, including providing advice on prosecution strategy, litigation and infringement issues, licensing issues and review of competitor patent portfolios

- Provided strategic advice to start-ups regarding how to gain cost-efficient patent protection for technology that can be used in a wide variety of applications
- Advised non-profit educational organization on trademark and copyright issues

## BACKGROUND

Rick's practice is global in scope, including clients from the U.S., Europe, China, Japan, Korea, India and Australia. He has been involved in a wide range of technologies, including medical devices, automotive and transportation, consumer products, electrical, computer and internet. Rick has a flair for immediately understanding his audience and their often specific needs.

Trained as an electrical engineer, Rick's hands-on engineering and practical business skills enable him to work seamlessly with other engineers, inventors, scientists, in-house counsel and executives alike. With over a decade of experience as a partner at Harness IP, Rick has repeatedly developed IP portfolios and strategies that have increased his clients' market share while meeting clients' budgets of all sizes.

## INDUSTRIES OF PRACTICE

- *Medical systems/devices*: including navigation systems, neuromodulation and neurostimulation devices, cardiac/heart devices, implants, prosthetics, instruments, orthopedic applications, biologics, sports medicine and surgical techniques
- *Automotive & Transportation*: brake discs, solenoids, cable cantilevers, seating, electromagnetic actuating elements and automotive controllers
- *Electrical, Computer, & Internet*: centralized computing systems, database and server retrieval systems, battery packs and controllers in the medical arts areas
- *Consumer products*: ranging from container caps and dispensers, to industrial and residential lighting, textile manufacturing, knitting machines, rifles and ammunition

## AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Preparation and prosecution of domestic and foreign patent and trademark applications, including design patents, patent reexamination and reissue matters
- Preparation of formal opinions, including patentability, state-of-the-art, invalidity and non-infringement opinions
- Product design arounds, clearance and freedom-to-practice analysis and opinions
- Due diligence analysis

- Review of state-of-the-art landscapes to identify and advise clients with respect to open areas of patentability, including identifying additional development opportunities
- Litigation support for a variety of intellectual property matters, including enforcement, licensing and prosecution strategy

## **ENGINEERING BACKGROUND**

- Electrical Engineer at Chrysler Corporation in the Advanced Electrical / Electronic Design and Development Group
- Experience at Chrysler included advanced system design and testing, where Rick was awarded a U.S. patent for an electromagnetic compatibility test device that he developed
- Electrical Engineer at American Yazaki, a tier-one automotive supplier, where Rick worked in the fields of distribution systems and multiplexing technology, as well as computer hardware and software

## **AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS**

- *Best Lawyers*, Patent Law, 2024
- *Corporate Counsel U.S. Legal 500*, Volume II, Nominated "Leading Lawyer," Intellectual Property, Technology, Media & Telecoms
- *Patent Buddy/Patent Research Review*, "Top Patent Prosecutor," 2011, 2013
- M&A Award, *The Corporate America News* 2015
- American Jurisprudence Award
- Justice Frank Murphy Honor Society
- Eta Kappa Nu Electrical Engineering Honor Society

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

- American Intellectual Property Law Association
- Michigan Patent Law Association

## **EDUCATION**

J.D., *magna cum laude*, University of Detroit, 1993

B.S., Electrical Engineering, Lawrence Technological University, 1988

## **BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS**

Michigan

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

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

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office