

Intellectual Property REPORT

DICKINSON WRIGHT RISES TO THE TOP

[D.C. Office Named in International Publication](#)

Dickinson Wright is setting the industry benchmark for trademark legal services in the Washington D.C. area. World Trademark Review named DW to its inaugural publication of *WTR 1000 – The Definitive Guide to Trademark and Legal Services*.

The D.C. office was chosen because its attorneys offer high levels of service, strategic thinking and in-depth knowledge of law. They understand their clients' businesses, can assist in both brand development and protection, and can create tailored strategies for their clients.

The main goal of *WTR 1000* is to identify and rank the firms and individuals to turn to for unparalleled trademark services when seeking local and international legal partners. To achieve this goal WTR conducted hundreds of interviews with trademark specialists in more than 50 key jurisdictions. When identifying the leading firms, factors such as depth of expertise, market presence and the level of work they are typically instructed on were taken into account.



Sam D. Littlepage, a member in the D.C. office, was also recognized in both the contentious and non-contentious categories of *WTR 1000*. He was included because he received substantial positive feedback from trademark specialists. Sam has considerable experience in trademark and copyright litigation, and also maintains a strong portfolio management practice advising clients such as Borders Group, Thrifty Car Rental, American Suzuki Corp. and the Ameritech Publishing Company.

WELCOME TO THE FIRM

[Dickinson Wright Adds Four New IP Attorneys](#)

To further strengthen and diversify the intellectual property department at DW, four new IP attorneys have joined the firm. Christopher Mitchell and John Blattner will add IP bench strength to the Ann Arbor office, while Steve Parks and Mikhail Murshak will establish an IP practice in the Lansing office.

John Blattner specializes in the area of trademark counseling, registration, maintenance and enforcement in both the United States and overseas. He has represented an Italian jewelry designer, German and U.S. automakers, financial services companies and consumer products manufacturers. John is an Adjunct Professor at Michigan State University College of Law, where he has been teaching trademarks and unfair competition since 2005.

Chris Mitchell practices in all areas of intellectual property law, including patent and trademark preparation and prosecution,



DICKINSON WRIGHT MAKES CRAIN'S LIST

Dickinson Wright was named one of the largest intellectual property firms in southeast Michigan by Crain's Detroit Business. The rankings were based on the number of intellectual property lawyers working in each firm.

licensing, due diligence in M&A transactions and litigation. Chris's clients include automotive suppliers, medical device manufacturers, universities and a wide variety of consumer products manufacturers and retailers. Chris is registered to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and is also registered as a patent agent with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office. Chris is admitted to practice before the federal courts of Michigan, the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Mikhail Murshak's practice focuses on all aspects of patent preparation and prosecution, as well as litigation with primary emphasis in the chemical arts. He has represented clients in industries such as medical devices, automotive, hybrid vehicle technology and chemical engineering. Mikhail is admitted to practice in Michigan, New York and Connecticut, and he is registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Dr. Steven Parks' practice focuses on various aspects of patent preparation, prosecution and counseling including freedom-to-operate, patentability, non-infringement and validity opinions. His technical background includes diverse areas such as chemical engineering, chemistry, material science, agricultural engineering, and mechanical engineering, with a particular focus in areas such as polymer chemistry, bio-based alternative fuel technology, agricultural and biological assays and process engineering.

"With the addition of these four attorneys, we offer to our clients even greater depth and experience in consumer products, life sciences, medical devices, chemical patents, and trademark prosecution and enforcement. We fully expect to continue to expand and deepen these practice areas in other markets that we serve," said William T. Burgess, Dickinson Wright CEO.

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IP ATTORNEYS BY OFFICE

Ann Arbor

John C. Blattner, Member
734-623-1698
jblattner@dickinsonwright.com

Christopher A. Mitchell, Member
734-623-1906
cmitchell@dickinsonwright.com

Tatiana Melnik, Associate
734-623-1713
tmelnik@dickinsonwright.com

John C. Nishi, Member
734-623-1938
jnishi@dickinsonwright.com

Jon E. Shackelford, Member
734-623-1734
jshackelford@dickinsonwright.com

Bloomfield Hills

John A. Artz, Member
248-433-7257
jaartz@dickinsonwright.com

John S. Artz, Member
248-433-7262
jsartz@dickinsonwright.com

Brian R. Balow, Member
248-433-7536
bbalow@dickinsonwright.com

Karolyn Bignotti, Associate
248-433-7299
kbignotti@dickinsonwright.com

Roger H. Cummings, Member
248-433-7551
rcummings@dickinsonwright.com

Thomas E. Donohue, Of Counsel
248-433-7221
tdonohue@dickinsonwright.com

William H. Honaker
Member and Practice Dept. Mgr.
248-433-7381
whonaker@dickinsonwright.com

Steven Hurles, Associate
248-433-7589
shurles@dickinsonwright.com

Richard A. Jones, Member
248-433-7285
rjones@dickinsonwright.com

Jeremy J. Klobucar, Associate
248-433-7541
jklobucar@dickinsonwright.com

Harold W. Milton, Jr., Of Counsel
248-433-7385
hmilton@dickinsonwright.com

Craig A. Phillips, Member
248-433-7231
cphillips@dickinsonwright.com

Daniel D. Quick, Member
248-433-7242
dquick@dickinsonwright.com

Bryan J. Schomer, Associate
248-433-7529
bschomer@dickinsonwright.com

Denis Shamo, Associate
248-433-7236
dshamo@dickinsonwright.com

Randall L. Shoemaker, Ph.D., Member
248-433-7383
rshoemaker@dickinsonwright.com

Kimberly M. Slaven, Associate
248-433-7399
kslaven@dickinsonwright.com

Robert L. Stearns, Member
248-433-7382
rstearns@dickinsonwright.com

John D. Wright, Member
248-433-7390
jwright@dickinsonwright.com

Lansing
Mikhail Murshak, Of Counsel
517-487-4770
mmurshak@dickinsonwright.com

Steven M. Parks, Ph.D., Of Counsel
517-487-4780
sparks@dickinsonwright.com

Las Vegas
Steven A. Gibson, Member
702-541-8200
sgibson@dickinsonwright.com

Jodi Donetta Lowry, Of Counsel
702-541-7891
jlowry@dickinsonwright.com

Jonathan M. A. Salls, Associate
702-541-7893
jsalls@dickinsonwright.com

Nashville

Philip M. Kirkpatrick, Member
615-620-1716
pkirkpatrick@dickinsonwright.com

Toronto
Paul E. Bain, Partner
416-646-8364
pbain@dickinsonwright.com

Trevor S. Whiffen, Partner
416-777-2399
twhiffen@dickinsonwright.com

Washington, D.C.
Doug E. Agopsowicz, Associate
202-659-6933
dagopsowicz@dickinsonwright.com

Melissa A. Alcantara, Associate
202-785-4644
malcantara@dickinsonwright.com

Barth X. deRosa, Member
202-408-5955
bderosa@dickinsonwright.com

Richard D. Jordan, Member
202-659-6950
rjordan@dickinsonwright.com

Cecil E. Key, Member
202-659-6925
ckey@dickinsonwright.com

James E. Ledbetter, Member
202-659-6960
jledbetter@dickinsonwright.com

Samuel D. Littlepage, Member
202-659-6920
slittlepage@dickinsonwright.com

Steven D. Lustig, Of Counsel
202-659-6962
slustig@dickinsonwright.com

Nicole M. Meyer, Member
202-659-6924
nmeyer@dickinsonwright.com

H. Jonathan Redway, Member
202-659-6946
jredway@dickinsonwright.com

David W. Ward, Of Counsel
202-659-6963
dward@dickinsonwright.com