IP Law Section
of The State Bar of Georgia SM

FALL 2026

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Chair's Message

Message from Josh Curry



Welcome to the Intellectual Property Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia. The Section brings together patent, trademark, copyright, and trade secret lawyers from large and small firms, in-house legal departments, and solo practices through CLE programs, committee events, socials, and community service held throughout the Bar year.

Most of that happens in our committees (Patent, Copyright, Trademark, Trade Secret, and In-House), which plan their own programs, put on social events, and help coordinate our Annual Conference. Joining a committee is the most direct way to get involved, and we especially want more young lawyers to do so, including through our Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Committee.

That is how I got involved: I joined the Patent Committee as an associate, helped put on its CLE programs, and later chaired it for several years. Along the way, I got to know IP lawyers across Georgia, from firms of every size and in-house legal departments, and learned a great deal from watching how they practiced. Many of those colleagues became mentors, referral sources, and friends. The Section did a lot for me early in my career, and I want it to do the same for lawyers coming up now.

This is your Section, and I would like to hear what you want from it. If you have ideas, or would like to help with a committee, please contact me or any committee chair listed on this site.

Finally, thank you to the committee chairs, speakers, volunteers, and Bar staff whose hard work makes our programs and events possible, and to each of you for being part of Georgia's IP community.

I hope to see you at an upcoming program or event soon.

Recent Events



The IP Section Social at Ladybird was the perfect way to kick off the Bar year.

We enjoyed reconnecting with colleagues, making new connections, and celebrating Georgia's IP community.



Deep roots make for a strong tree. The IP Section Executive Committee connects with former Section Chairs at a dinner on July 16, 2026.

Upcoming Events

- Trade Secret CLE at The State Bar's Conference Center - *November 17, 2026*
- Holiday Party at The Four Seasons - *January 7, 2027*

Keep an eye out for details!

Section Members Enjoy 2026 Atlanta United Home Opener

On Saturday, March 7, members of the IP Section attended Atlanta United's 2026 season home opener for a memorable social outing.



Several members met each other for the very first time and enjoyed getting to know one another. Although United fell 3-2 to Real Salt Lake, the new-look "Five Stripes" played an exciting match that was a promising start for the season. The electric atmosphere provided by Mercedes-Benz Stadium and the die-hard soccer fans produced a top-notch experience.



The attendees included then-Section Chair Chittam Thakore, Trade Secret Committee Co-Chairs Mike Cicero and Neal Weinrich, then-Trademark Committee Co-Chair Jason Cooper, Copyright Committee Co-Chair Jelani Miller,

Brad Czerwonky, Nicole Morris, Lei Fang, and Larry Kunin.

Be on the lookout for future outings and social activities to stay involved with the Section.

IP Section Hosts 2026 Annual Conference at State Bar Center

The IP Section hosted its Annual Conference on March 24, 2026, at the State Bar of Georgia. The program was a great success, with over 100 in attendance. A full day of timely, engaging presentations was offered across key areas of intellectual property law, led by leading practitioners, in-house counsel, academics, and members of the judiciary.







The program opened with a trade secrets presentation by Chad Lackey, Ph.D., Director at DOAR, Inc. This session presented the results of a multi-venue juror attitude study examining perceptions of conduct commonly associated with trade secret misappropriation. Drawing from data across major IP jurisdictions—including the Central District of California, Western District of Texas, Eastern District of Texas, and the District of Delaware—the presentation highlighted how demographic and experiential factors may influence juror views. The session provided litigators with practical insights into jury selection strategy and how to frame trade secret claims effectively in light of these findings.



Attendees next heard from a distinguished panel of in-house counsel addressing current trademark challenges from a business perspective. Moderated by Cher Gregoire (Berman Fink Van Horn, P.C.) and Jason Cooper (The Sladkus Law Group), the panel featured Antigone Peyton (General Counsel, Spanx), Brent Radcliff (Associate General Counsel, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association), Auma Reggy (Managing Chief Counsel, Intellectual Property, Digital & Data Assets Team, McKesson), and Andy Weeks (Senior Legal Counsel, Trademarks, The Coca-Cola Company). The panel explored how companies are evaluating trademark value, aligning enforcement strategies with business priorities, balancing brand protection strategy with speed to market, and how in-house teams measure success and work best with outside counsel.



The morning session concluded with a patent-focused discussion on the growing role of artificial intelligence in innovation and patent practice. Moderated by Devan Knapp (Finnegan) and Clint South (Ballard Spahr), the panel included Jason Chang (AVP Senior Legal

Counsel of Intellectual Property, AT&T), Yuri Eliezer (CEO and co-founder, Junior AI), and Professor Arti Rai (Elvin R. Latty Professor of Law, Duke University School of Law). Panelists examined how AI is reshaping inventorship, patent drafting, and prosecution. Topics included USPTO guidance on AI-assisted inventions, the use of AI tools in preparing applications, and broader policy implications for the patent system.



Following lunch, Paul Ogunmefun, CEO of Melodofi presented a deep dive into music catalog transactions. Alcide L. Honoré (Honoré Law, LLC) moderated this session and examined the structure and valuation of catalog deals, including key considerations such as royalty streams, chain of title, and due diligence issues. Attendees gained insight into how deals are negotiated and documented, including the allocation of rights, risk management strategies, and common pitfalls.



The following ethics session was moderated by Justin Charles Ward (General Counsel, Blue Force Gear, Inc.), and featured Susanne Hollinger (General Counsel, Wellcome Leap, Inc.), Shaton Menzie (Counsel, Five Below, Inc.), and Andrew Strickland (General Counsel, Unirac, Inc.). This panel addressed professional responsibility in modern IP practice, with a focus on the ethical challenges posed by artificial intelligence. Topics included duties of candor and competence, confidentiality risks associated with AI tools, billing and staffing considerations, and managing conflicts of interest.



The program concluded with a professionalism panel featuring judges from the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, including Hon. Michael L. Brown, Hon. J.P. Boulee, Hon. Steven D. Grimberg, and Hon. Eleanor L. Ross. Jason H. Cooper (The Sladkus Law Group) moderated the session. The panel provided practical guidance on maintaining professionalism in complex litigation, addressing topics such as discovery disputes, deposition conduct, motion practice, and the appropriate use of artificial intelligence in filings.



Attendees had opportunities throughout the day to connect with colleagues and speakers. The event concluded with a reception at The Glenn Hotel, featuring drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres, providing an informal setting for continued discussion and networking.



The IP Section Executive Committee looks forward to the next Annual Conference and hopes to see you there.









We all have to start somewhere.

The State Bar of Georgia values wellness in the legal profession, and we offer a variety of resources to help lawyers in their lives and practices. Visit lawyerslivingwell.org to read articles on wellness and access discounts to gym memberships and classes. Plus, learn about the following programs:

Lawyers Assistance Program
Lawyers Helping Lawyers
Suicide Awareness Campaign
SOLACE
#UseYour6

GEORGIA LAWYERS LIVING WELL

State Bar of Georgia

Section Members Volunteer at PAWS Atlanta

On May 23, the rain could not keep the IP Section from turning up for a worthy cause! Though it turned out to be a wet and blustery day, the Section volunteers were undeterred from attending the planned volunteer event at PAWS Atlanta (Atlanta's oldest no-kill pet shelter). The volunteers spent time providing much-needed social interactions with the resident pets and helped the shelter put together pet adoption kits.







