Holland & Hart



PRACTICES

Patent Preparation, Prosecution, and Counseling
Intellectual Property Litigation
Intellectual Property

INDUSTRIES

Technology

EDUCATION

University of Colorado Law School, J.D., 2003
Journal on Telecommunications and High Technology Law, Production Editor
University of Colorado Law Review, Member

Michigan Technological University, B.S., 2002
magna cum laude

Northwestern University, B.S., 1997
With Honors

BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado

David St. John-Larkin

Partner

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Dave counsels technology companies on mission-critical IP and technology transactions, with deep experience in patent strategy, portfolio management, licensing, standards, and open-source risk.

With decades of experience—including as a partner with an AmLaw 50 law firm and in-house counsel for a Fortune 500 company—Dave guides clients through complex technology agreements, commercialization efforts, and strategic partnerships. Clients rely on Dave's pragmatic approach to align IP risk and portfolio strategy with product roadmaps, commercial priorities, and deal velocity. He frequently advises on emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, and robotics.

Dave's practice spans the full IP lifecycle, including patent transactions, acquisitions, and monetization initiatives, as well as standards-related considerations. He also guides companies through open-source software compliance and diligence to identify licensing obligations and mitigate downstream risk.

Grounded in a computer science background and extensive software and telecommunications expertise, Dave translates complex engineering concepts into deal-ready terms for technical and executive stakeholders alike. As an inventor holding multiple US patents, he brings an innovator's problem-solving perspective to the patent process.

Before joining Holland & Hart, Dave was a partner at Ashurst Perkins Coie LLP, where he served as the Managing Partner for the Denver Office and firmwide chair of the Autonomy, Robotics, and Mobility industry group.

EXPERIENCE

Technology Focus Areas

- Software, cloud, and enterprise systems (including data center technologies)
- Telecommunications, wireless, and networking technologies
- Autonomous systems, robotics, and drones (UAV/UAS)
- Emerging technologies including AI/ML and quantum computing
- Media streaming, audio/video compression, codecs, and signal-processing related technologies
- IoT and connected devices

- Security, authentication, blockchain, and cryptographic systems

Technology Transactions & Licensing

- Drafting and negotiating complex technology, IP, and commercial agreements, including domestic and international licensing arrangements
- Joint development, strategic alliance, and technology transfer agreements
- Cloud services and software-related commercial arrangements
- Product development, manufacturing, distribution, and supply agreements with IP-intensive terms
- Content distribution and digital media agreements
- Confidentiality and data-sharing structures supporting innovation and partnerships
- IP and contract due diligence for financings, investments, and M&A transactions

Standards-Related IP, Standard-Setting & Patent Pools

- Counseling on standards-driven IP considerations and licensing strategy
- Agreements and deal support involving technologies tied to industry standards and interoperability ecosystems
- Patent pool–related licensing considerations and risk allocation (as applicable)

Open-Source Software Counseling & Due Diligence

- Open-source licensing assessments and compliance counseling (including restrictive license families)
- Transactional diligence and risk mitigation for open-source in products, acquisitions, and commercial partnerships
- Advising on governance, notices, and contract terms that address open-source obligations

Patent Portfolio Strategy, Counseling & Patent Transactions

- Patent portfolio management and strategy aligned to business priorities and product roadmaps
- Patent acquisitions, divestitures, transfers, and monetization initiatives
- Patent valuation support and risk-based decision-making (build/buy/license)
- Patent landscape assessments and product clearance / freedom-to-operate (FTO) counseling

Patent Analysis & Dispute Counseling (Pre-Litigation)

- Rapid evaluation of infringement, validity, and exposure issues in response to patent assertions

- Pre-suit strategy, response planning, and cost-control options tailored to business goals
- Supporting litigation teams with licensing, portfolio, and standards context when disputes escalate

PUBLICATIONS

"How To Measure The Effectiveness Of Your Patent Portfolio," *Law360*, February 21, 2013

"Invention Harvesting Begins At The Top," *Law360*, July 21, 2009

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"The Supreme Court and Patent Reform," *University of Colorado-Boulder, Colorado Law School, Silicon Flatirons*, January 25, 2018

"Patent Reform in Action," *University of Colorado-Boulder, Colorado Law School, Silicon Flatirons*, January 13, 2017

RECOGNITION

- *Chambers USA*, Intellectual Property, 2021-2026
- *Best Lawyers in America*, Patent Law, Lawyer of the Year, 2025
- *Best Lawyers in America*, Information Technology Law, Lawyer of the Year, 2023
- *Best Lawyers in America*, Information Technology Law, 2021-2027; Litigation - Intellectual Property; Patent Law, 2018-2027
- *Intellectual Asset Management (IAM)*, Patent 1000, 2015-2026
- *IAM*, Global Leader, 2020-2024, 2027
- *5280 Magazine*, Top Lawyers, 2019, 2021-2025
- *Colorado Super Lawyers*, 2014-2025
- *5280 Magazine*, "Top Intellectual Property: Patent Lawyer," 2018-2020

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology and Entrepreneurship, University of Colorado School of Law, Board Member and IP/IT Advisory Board Member
- Colorado IP American Inn of Court, Member and Past Board Member
- Colorado Bar Association, Intellectual Property Section, Past Chair
- Bridge Entrepreneur’s Network, Growth Advisor
- Breakthrough T1D, Rocky Mountain Region, Board Member