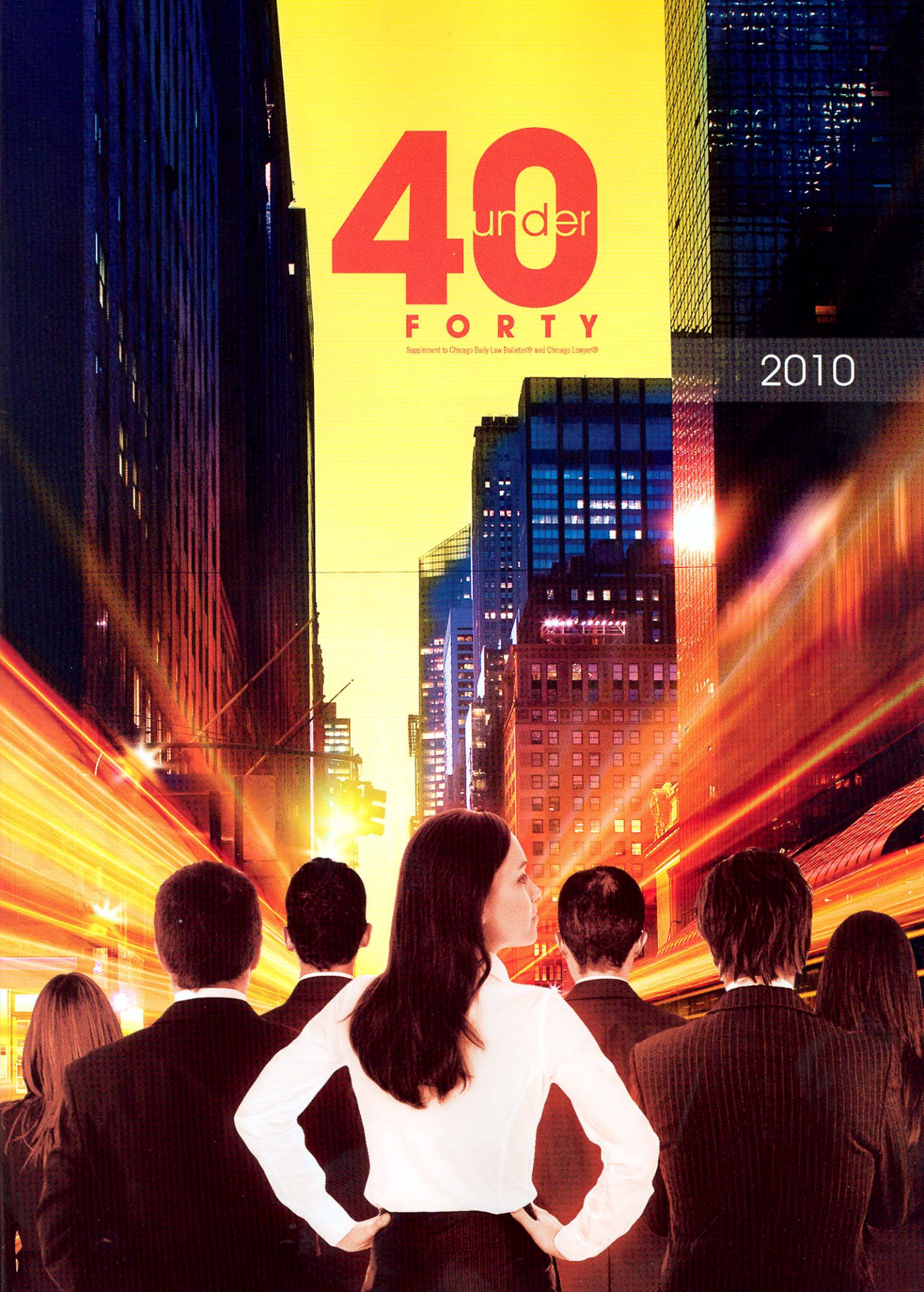


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CHRISTOPHER V. CARANI

AGE
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LAW SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

AREA OF PRACTICE
**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
WITH EMPHASIS ON DESIGN LAW**

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*"He is a leader
in design law."*

How close is too close? When it comes to intellectual property law issues, whether regarding patents, trademarks or copyrights, this is the question that clients the world over pose to Christopher V. Carani. Carani, a partner and shareholder at McAndrews, Held & Malloy, wins high acclaim for his expertise in intellectual property law, and in particular design patent law. "He can move mountains," says Robert Louis Finkel, a patent lawyer in Encino, Calif., with more than 50 years of experience in the field.

"He is nationally recognized as an authority on U.S. design patent law," says Christopher Renk a partner and shareholder at intellectual property law firm Banner & Witcoff.

"He is a leader in design law, an IP specialty that focuses on obtaining and enforcing design patents. There are only a handful of IP lawyers in the country who are leaders in this specialized area of the law, and Mr. Carani is clearly one of them," says Perry Saidman, a D.C. based attorney with 27 years experience.

What prompts such enthusiasm? Both clients and fellow attorneys alike point to Carani's sharp intellect, leadership qualities, strong people skills and patience and ability to explain. "Every day that we have worked on cases together, I am impressed by the clarity and breadth of his legal analysis of very complex legal concepts," says Malcolm Goodrich, a lawyer in Billings, Mont., who has worked with Carani on a number of patent cases over the past eight years. "He has a gift of explaining these complex and often very foreign concepts to my Montana-based clients, who are initially very skeptical of the attorney from the big city," Goodrich says. "They invariably come back to me and let me know how they truly appreciate his expertise," Goodrich says.

Steven Gula, president of Northern International, Inc., a Vancouver-based consumer products company, recalled how Carani led the charge by working all hours of the morning for months and seeing to it that his company prevailed in an epic intellectual property battle that spanned 3 continents and implicated hundreds of patents. During the crisis, "I needed to go to China on several occasions, and I was able to work with Chris as if he was in the same office. He made himself available at all times. Because of his caring, his knowledge, willingness to go the extra mile, we were able to prevail in that case," Gula says. "He's patient and personable. He certainly has a sense of humor and he has a tremendous word ethic."

Carani, an engineering graduate who earned his law degree at the University of Chicago and clerked for the Hon. Rebecca J. Pallmeyer at the U.S. District Court for the N.D. of Illinois, has been at the 90+ attorney intellectual property law firm McAndrews, Held & Malloy since 1995. On the national stage, he is a highly sought after speaker on issues related to patent law, and is a prolific author on the topic. Indeed, his groundbreaking article entitled "The New 'Extra-Ordinary' Observer Test for Design Patent Infringement," was chosen as one of 2009's best law-review articles and included in the *Thompson Reuters (West) Patent Law Review 2010*.

Carani exercised his intellect and leadership skills when he represented the American Intellectual Property Law Association in a 2008 case before the en banc US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, which Saidman describes as "the most important design patent case in the last 100 years."

"His two amicus briefs ... were instrumental in rewriting the design patent law," Finkel says. The case — *Egyptian Goddess, Inc. v. Swisa, Inc.* — was a dispute over the fundamental issue of what should be the test for deciding "how close is too close" when it comes to design patent infringement.

In a unanimous ruling, the Federal Circuit adopted the positions advocated by Carani, thereby reducing the number of steps used to decide whether a design patent is being infringed. Now, it all comes down to one test: Would an "ordinary observer" looking at the two designs think that one was a copy of the other? Anthony Dowell, a lawyer in Indiana who formerly worked at McAndrews, Held & Malloy, says "Chris' extensive book of business is extremely uncommon for an attorney his age in the field of patent law." Dowell credits this to Carani's unique combination of deep IP knowledge and admirable people skills.

Aside from his legal achievements, Carani is an accomplished jazz musician. He plays upright bass and jazz guitar; he also sings in Spanish, French, Portuguese and Italian. In a recent profile in *Chicago Lawyer* magazine, Carani talked about his deep passion for music and how it completes his person. He loves balancing his music with his legal career, proclaiming with a smile "I swear I need both aspects."

"His ability to practice law at a consistently high standard is even more incredible when one takes into account his time and energy spent in the equal passion of music," Goodrich says. Brent Kimbrough, a Chicago jazz guitar virtuoso who has played with Carani for years, echoes these sentiments noting, "his dedication is at the highest levels in both professions, and he's reached a high plateau in both fields."