



Michael B. Harlin

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Age: 39

Law School: Chicago-Kent College of Law

Practice Area: Intellectual Property

Michael Harlin has crafted a thriving legal career in a complex field of law, assisting clients in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries with patent matters. This requires an in-depth knowledge of evolving patent laws and regulations, as well as familiarity with the complicated technologies involved with the life sciences.

Harlin, an attorney with the Chicago law firm of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, has developed both skill sets. Harlin now works with some of the biggest and most successful companies in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. He has helped clients working in technologies across the life science spectrum, from analyzers and antibodies, to sustained-release pharmaceuticals and xenografts.

Harlin has helped clients in other diverse technologies, including renewable fuels, ophthalmic treatments, and improvements for the home and family life. While Harlin spends much of his time working with large life-science companies, he also helps small businesses and start-up companies with intellectual property matters.

Harlin's clients are as quick to offer praise. Nominator Keith Koford, of Alachua, Fla.-based RTI Biologics,

said that "Mike's skill has helped us to identify areas of patentability that otherwise would have been missed, and, therefore, would have resulted in the loss of significant intellectual property assets had they not been identified," Koford said. "His skill has also helped us to identify areas where additional investment of R&D resources would be a waste due to crowded technology sectors."

Luke Alter, of Beckman Coulter, Inc., based in California and Florida, worked with Harlin on a complicated patent interference proceeding. In his experience, Alter found that, "Mike is not only very intelligent, but also an

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James Pittacora, with Chicago's Pittacora & Crotty, LLC, considers Harlin a trustworthy counselor as well as an expert in his field. That is why he did not hesitate referring a matter to Harlin. This decision paid off, as Harlin quickly and successfully steered the client to a successful resolution.

"Mike made me look good to the

client," Pittacora said. "My client reported to me that Mike was highly attentive to this sensitive matter, and achieved a great result in a short period of time. My client raved about Mike's willingness to spend time 'holding their hand,' as this was a new and anxiety-ridden experience for them."

Despite a demanding practice, Harlin makes time to give back to his profession. In 2000, he founded a specialized CLE program devoted to preparing and prosecuting patents.

Harlin is also president-elect of the Chicago Intellectual Property Alliance, a not-for-profit entity that promotes intellectual property education in Chicago. He has been co-chair of CIPA's Science Fair committee, which sponsors awards for the "Most Inventive" projects at the Chicago Student Science Fair.

Because of his expertise, Harlin has become a sought-after speaker on patent topics. Earlier this year, he gave a presentation on patent protection for bioproducts at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society.

To Harlin's peers, none of this success is surprising.

"Mike exhibits the highest level of character of any attorney with whom I have been associated," said Pete Prommer, with Chicago's Nixon Peabody. "Mike's high level of character extends outside of his legal practice and into the general community." *