

Michael E. Whitham

Founder, Whitham, Curtis, Christofferson & Cook, P.C.
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Practice is focused on Intellectual Property

Mr. Whitham has represented small and large companies in connection with patent, trademark, copyright, and trade secret matters for approximately 20 years. He has negotiated and drafted a number of contracts for varying matters, including contracts for assigning and licensing patent and trademark rights, for research and development, and for the supply of proprietary materials and devices. He has written and prosecuted literally hundreds of patents in the U.S. and in foreign countries. The firm and its predecessors averages 200-400 issued patents per year. He has prosecuted and defended patent, trademark, and copyright infringement actions in Federal District Courts, and has represented clients in Appeals to the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and the Federal Circuit.

Science and Engineering

Mr. Whitham's educational background is in science. He has earned a Bachelors degree in biochemistry and a Masters degree in chemistry. Mr. Whitham also conducted laboratory research at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences using Raman spectroscopy and crystallography. Mr. Whitham currently works with small and large companies on developing patent strategies on cutting edge technologies, particularly in the fields of vaccines, genetic engineering, pharmaceuticals, medicine, polymer chemistry, E-beam lithography, wireless communications, electronic control systems, and computer science. Mr. Whitham also works at the interface of business ventures and scientific research, and provides counseling on contractual arrangements which promote the development of commercially valuable technologies.

Involvement with Non-Profit Organizations

Mr. Whitham has worked with several universities, non-profit research institutions and charitable foundations on patent, trademark, licensing, and contract matters over the last sixteen years. He has lectured at national and international symposia sponsored by such organizations as the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM), The Society of Industrial Microbiologists (SIM), Respiratory Drug Delivery (RDD), the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT), and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). He has also lectured at a number of universities and non-profit research corporations on patent, trademark, copyright and technology related issues.

Honors

Rated “AV” in Martindale-Hubble

Named in “Virginia’s Legal Elite” for 2003 by Virginia Business Journal

Education

Juris Doctorate–George Mason University, with distinction, 1990

Master of Arts, Chemistry-The College of William and Mary, 1986

Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, 1984

Professional Licenses

Registered Patent Agent, 1987

Virginia State Bar, 1990

Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

U.S. District Court, for the Eastern District of Virginia

Abbreviated listing of papers and invited lectures

IAPPR Chapter subsection (in press 2007)-“Problems with Royalty Rates, Royalty Stacking and Royalty Packing Issues”

VBA Winter Meeting January 18-20, 2006-“Harvesting and Auditing Intellectual Property”

VTIP Winter Workshop November 17, 2003-“Am I an Inventor”

CIT Small Business and Licensing Workshops–Meetings at the University of Virginia and at Virginia Tech, Fall, 2001 and Fall 2002

Whitham, M. E., “Recent Developments in Patent Law”, New River Valley Technology Access Forum, October, 2000

Whitham, M. E., “Recent Developments in Computer Software Patents,” Society of Industrial Microbiologists, Summer Meeting, August 1999.

Whitham, M. E., “Patent Prosecution,” Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties, Inc., Winter Meetings, 1998 & 1999

Whitham, M. E., “Patent Prosecution,” Association of University Technology Managers, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996 & 1997

Whitham, M. E. and Hoch, R. H., “Laboratory Notebooks,” The American Type Culture Collection, July 1996.

Whitham, M. E., “Intellectual Property Issues Apply to Smartcard,” VBA News and Views, March 1996.

Whitham, M. E., “Licensing and the Small Business,” National Innovation Workshop, Roanoke, 1995.

Whitham and Eagle, “Alternative Propellants: Proprietary Rights, Toxicological Issues and Projected Licensing Problems,” Respiratory Drug Delivery IV, May 1994.