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## **ROBERT KATZ, 44**

Partner  
Banner & Witcoff

When Nike, Inc., Microsoft, Nokia Corporation, and other top companies have a design they want protected, they call Katz. A win for Nike in 1997 set him on his path. Katz has advanced the use of design patents on just part of an object, known as “broken-line” claims. (The part of the object that isn’t claimed is drawn using dotted lines, and only what is shown in solid line is claimed.) The strategy helped Banner

win a record-breaking 744 design patents for clients in 2007. Meanwhile, European, Canadian, Japanese, and Korean officials who approve design patents have consulted with Katz on how to streamline their application process. Katz started at Carnegie Mellon University intending to be an architect, graduated as a mechanical engineer, and attended George Washington Law School.

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