



Kirk A. Sigmon He/Him/His

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Kirk helps companies around the world tackle complex intellectual property challenges, from high-stakes patent prosecution and litigation to strategic portfolio development, cross-border licensing, and maximizing IP value.

Kirk began his legal career in Tokyo, and now regularly advises on U.S., Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and European IP matters. Kirk's practice involves a wide range of technologies, from cutting-edge artificial intelligence models and self-driving cars to video games, fashion, and children's toys. For example, Kirk has worked on major patent prosecution and enforcement disputes involving machine learning, natural language processing, networking and cybersecurity, cellular communications, virtual reality, self-driving cars, biotechnology, medical devices, military weapons systems, cryptocurrency, aerospace flight systems, video encoding, oil and gas engineering, optoelectronics, data storage, and more. Kirk is also the chair of the firm's IP Due Diligence Committee and the vice-chair of the Intellectual Property Owners Association Anti-Counterfeiting & Anti-Piracy Committee. Kirk speaks Japanese and is actively studying Korean.

In addition to his work at Banner, Kirk is part of a select graduate cohort at Dartmouth, where his research focuses on artificial intelligence, deep learning, machine vision, and Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs). Kirk is also a University of Hong Kong-certified FinTech professional, an IBM-certified Machine Learning Professional, a Google-certified cybersecurity professional, and a Government Blockchain Association-certified Blockchain Legal Specialist. A former Thomas Edison Fellow at George Mason University, Kirk's recent scholarly output includes a law review article on video game program code decompilations and copyright, a practitioner guide on prosecuting artificial intelligence patent applications, various book chapters on video game intellectual property protection, and a legal education course on trademark and patent prosecution ethics. Kirk is a frequent contributor to the firm's blog Patent Arcade, where he writes on video game intellectual property law. He also was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America® 2026 edition for patent law.

Kirk has also served as the chair of the firm's Pro Bono Committee for years. He has successfully represented a Guantanamo Bay detainee in military proceedings and victims of sexual violence in U-Visa proceedings. He also regularly prepares testamentary documents for indigent senior citizens and has represented numerous adults and minors in protective order and immigration proceedings.

Before joining Banner, in addition to his intellectual property practice, Kirk worked with clients in response to Department of Justice, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and Securities and Exchange Commission investigations that involved complex technical issues.

Outside of the law, Kirk is a competitive ballroom dancer and the head of a charity events organization in Washington, D.C., where he seeks to provide fundraising opportunities to local nonprofits and causes.

Education

Wake Forest University
2010, B.A.

Cornell Law School
2013, J.D.

Temple University
2017, M.B.A.

Arizona State University
2018, B.S., Electrical Engineering

Languages

Japanese
Conversational

Admissions

Bar Admissions
2013, District of Columbia
2013, Virginia

Court Admissions
District of Columbia Court of Appeals

Superior Court of the District of Columbia

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

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

Practices

Copyright
Counseling, Opinions + Licensing
Counterfeit Goods Seizure
Jury Trials
Litigation
PTAB Litigation
Patent Prosecution
Trade Dress
Trade Secrets
Trademarks

Industries

Artificial Intelligence
Electrical + Computer Technologies
Internet, E-Commerce + Business Methods

Accolades

- Named to Managing Intellectual Property Rising Stars list, 2025.
- Selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America® 2026 edition for patent law.

EVENT - 01.23.26

Kirk Sigmon Presents on Cross-Border IP Disputes in Malaysia

NEWS - 01.06.26

IPO Appoints Mercedes Meyer and Kirk Sigmon to Serve on Committees

NEWS - 12.30.25

Strategies and Pitfalls of Filing U.S. Patent Applications Based on Prior Chinese Applications

LIBRARY - 12.30.25

Strategies and Pitfalls of Filing U.S. Patent Applications Based on Prior Chinese Applications

NEWS - 12.11.25

Kirk Sigmon Speaks at General Counsel Roundtable on IP Valuation and Enforcement

NEWS - 12.11.25

Tech Trends to Watch in 2026

EVENT - 11.26.25

DMV Corporate IP Roundtable Explores Best Practices for Patenting AI Inventions

NEWS - 11.13.25

IP Alert | Britannica v. Perplexity: Newly-Filed Lawsuit Questions Legality of Scraping, Grounding of Machine Learning Models

EVENT - 11.12.25

Kirk Sigmon Speaks on IP Protection for Health Care and Life Sciences Inventions Using AI and Machine Learning

NEWS - 11.04.25

China and U.S. Signal Openness to AI Patents in the AI Race, but Applicants Should Proceed Carefully

NEWS - 10.31.25

AI-Specific Patent Memorandum Triggers Uptick in AI Patent Application Filings

NEWS - 10.28.25

IP Alert | Reddit Sues Perplexity Alleging Illegal Scraping of Google Excerpts of Copyrighted Reddit Posts, Setting Up Yet Another AI Copyright Battle

EVENT - 10.14.25

Kirk Sigmon Served as a Judge at the William & Mary 2025 Colonial Classic Mock Trial Tournament

NEWS - 10.13.25

Kirk Sigmon Quoted by Law360 on IP Challenges Around OpenAI's Sora

NEWS - 10.09.25

Kirk Sigmon Featured in Video Podcast and Quoted in Insider Gaming

NEWS - 09.30.25

Alisa Abbott and Kirk Sigmon Recognized as Rising Stars by Managing IP

NEWS - 09.18.25

Kirk Sigmon Quoted by NTD on AI and the Scope of Fair Use

NEWS - 09.17.25

Kirk Sigmon Quoted in The Epoch Times on the Risks of AI Coding

NEWS - 09.11.25

Service of Process in China: Tips, Tricks, and Traps

NEWS - 09.05.25

IP Alert | Biggest Public Copyright Settlement in History: Anthropic and Book Authors Announce Terms to Settle Lawsuit Over Pirated Material Used to Train LLM

NEWS - 08.21.25

Nine Banner Witcoff Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2026 in America

NEWS - 08.18.25

Patenting AI and Machine Learning in the Wake of Recentive

PRESS - 08.15.25

Kirk Sigmon Quoted in WIRED on AI Clones in the Gaming Industry

NEWS - 08.13.25

Kirk Sigmon Leads Guest Lecture at Purdue on AI and Machine Learning Law

EVENT - 08.06.25

Kirk Sigmon and Bradley Van Pelt Present at IIPA 2025

PRESS - 07.21.25

Kirk Sigmon Quoted by CEB on the Future of Fair Use

NEWS - 06.26.25

IP Alert | Two Big AI/LLM Copyright Rulings: Fair Use OK, But Piracy/Output Still Matters

PRESS - 06.26.25

Kirk Sigmon Quoted by InfoWorld on Risks of AI-Based Programming

EVENT - 06.18.25

Patent Prosecution Ethics Recent Cases from the USPTO Office of Enrollment and Discipline | CLE Webinar

EVENT - 05.27.25

AI Object, Your Honor: Kirk Sigmon Moderates Panel at VGBA Summit

PRESS - 05.20.25

The Fun and Weird World of Ballroom Dance Patents

NEWS - 05.08.25

IP Alert | Recentive Analytics: Federal Circuit Weighs in on AI, but No Recommended Changes in AI/ML Patenting Strategy

PRESS - 02.06.25

What Does the U.S. Copyright Office's New Guidance on AI Mean for Fashion?

EVENT - 01.31.25

Kirk Sigmon Presents at the Annual Temple Spine Symposium

NEWS - 11.05.24

<https://bannerwitcoff.com>

Kirk Sigmon Quoted in InformationWeek on the Intellectual Property Risks of Generative AI

PRESS - 09.26.24

Kirk Sigmon for PC Gamer: Breaking Down Nintendo's Palworld Lawsuit

EVENT - 08.13.24

Kirk Sigmon to Present on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Bangkok, Thailand

EVENT - 03.11.24

Kirk Sigmon Speaks on Strategic IP Management and Patents in Innovation at Global IP ConfEx

EVENT - 03.11.24

Kirk Sigmon Acts as Judge in 2024 USPTO National Patent Application Drafting Competition

EVENT - 01.12.24

Kirk Sigmon Attends WIPF Bengaluru 2024

NEWS - 11.03.23

Kirk Sigmon Explores 10 Strange Food Patents and Why They Exist for Food Manufacturing

LIBRARY - 10.20.23

Kirk Sigmon Quoted in Guatamalan Newspaper on Video Game Law and Violence

EVENT - 10.10.23

WITCON Delivered Explores AI at Bank of America in Charlotte, North Carolina

EVENT - 10.10.23

Kirk Sigmon Discusses Patenting and Copyrighting AI at The Global Intellectual Property Conference

EVENT - 09.29.23

Kirk Sigmon Joins Multiple Panel Discussions at the IIPLA USA 2023/WLF 2023 LegalTech Summit USA

NEWS - 09.21.23

Nerds v. Nintendo: Kirk Sigmon Discusses Copyright, Emulation, and All Things Video Games on Cardozo Law Review Podcast

PRESS - 09.11.23

Bottle Battles: Lawsuits in the World of Alcohol Bottling

LIBRARY - 05.31.23

Patent Protection for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

NEWS - 05.18.23

AI and Patents: A Quick Primer

EVENT - 05.09.23

Kirk Sigmon to Participate in ChatGPT and IP Roundtable Webinar

EVENT - 04.28.23

Kirk Sigmon Participates in IP & Secret Sauce - Virtual Round Table Discussion: Building a Robust Invention Harvesting Program - is there a Special Sauce?

NEWS - 04.24.23

11 Banner Witcoff Attorneys Named 2023 Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

<https://bannerwitcoff.com>

EVENT - 03.28.23

Kirk Sigmon Joins Lex Machina Patent Litigation Panel Discussion

EVENT - 02.09.23

Kirk Sigmon Presents at Temple Spine Symposium Ortho Grand Rounds: Innovations in Spine Surgery