



Robert S. Katz

Attorney
Washington, DC
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Rob has benefited firm clients in the areas of utility patents and industrial designs. He has drafted and prosecuted to issuance numerous and significant utility patents in the U.S. and in foreign countries. These clients include Fortune 500 companies as well as many individual inventors and small companies who rely on strong patent protection in their marketplaces. The patents have been directed primarily to mechanical and electromechanical devices, and to software and computer-related inventions. Many patents drafted and prosecuted by Rob have been successfully enforced with some having served as the cornerstone for the successful sale of companies.

Rob has also provided advice and prepared opinions regarding the patentability of inventions, patent infringement, patent validity, and trade secret protection to help clients properly assess the advantages and disadvantages of certain intellectual property and business decisions.

In patent and trademark litigation matters, he has assisted clients in enforcing and defending intellectual property related claims at the district court and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and in the International Trade Commission.

Both nationally and internationally, Rob is considered one of the premier practitioners in the field of industrial designs, leading the way in the procurement and enforcement of design patents. On behalf of the firm's clients, he has helped procure more than 7,000 design patents in the U.S. and more than 20,000 design patents/registrations outside the U.S., and has helped to successfully enforce over 100 design patents. Leaders from foreign design patent offices have consulted with him regarding industrial design policies, and he has served as an expert in design patent litigations. He also prepared and filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of IDSA (Industrial Designers Society of America).

He is a frequent speaker on industrial design-related topics and has been invited to speak before industry and legal professional organizations on six continents. He has spoken at conferences and seminars hosted by ABA (American Bar Association), AIPLA (American Intellectual Property Law Association), FICPI (Federation International des Conseils en Propriete Industrielle), INTA (International Trademark Association), IPO (Intellectual Property Owners Association), IPR University Center (Finland), the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and WIPO (World Intellectual Property Office). Representatives from the Japanese Patent Office, the Korean Patent Office, and WIPO have consulted with him on issues of design patent harmonization.

Rob has written articles addressing issues relating to utility patent, design patent, and trade dress rights. He has authored a section entitled "Writing Patents for Litigation and Licensing" for a published book by BNA Publishing and co-authored a chapter entitled "Protecting and Enforcing Design Rights in the United States" for World Trademark Review's Designs: A Global Guide 2018. He is currently a professor at George Washington University Law School, teaching Design Law, and was formerly a professor at Georgetown University Law School, teaching Intellectual Property Pretrial Litigation Skills.

Rob holds leadership positions in several professional organizations, including ABA, AIPLA, FICPI and INTA. He is the current Chair of INTA's Designs Committee and Vice President of FICPI's U.S. Section. For the ABA Section of Intellectual Property Law, he currently serves as Liaison to FICPI. He also serves as a member of the Industrial Designs working group of the AIPLA Special Committee on Legislation. He is a former Chair of the Industrial Design Section for both FICPI and AIPLA, and also a member of IDSA, IPO and PTAB Bar Association.

Before joining Banner Witcoff, Rob was a patent examiner at the USPTO. In that capacity, he examined patent applications for article and material handling devices covering a broad range of applications including robotics, conveyors, and loading and unloading vehicles. Rob also worked as a mechanical engineer at Digital Equipment Corporation's High Performance

Systems, where he designed mechanical, electrical, and electromechanical devices for main-frame computers. Additionally, he is a co-inventor of U.S. Patent No. 4,723,549 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Dilating Blood Vessels."

Rob earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University, and his Juris Doctor degree, with honors, from George Washington University. He is admitted to practice before many courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. He is a member of the bar in Virginia and the District of Columbia, and is registered to practice before the USPTO.

Rob is recognized as a top patent practitioner by IAM, MIP and Legal 500, and is AV Peer Review Rated by the LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell Ratings. He was named one of the "Top 50 Under 45" intellectual property attorneys in 2008 by IP Law and Business.

Education

B.S. 1986, Carnegie Mellon University
J.D. 1992, George Washington University

Admissions

Bar Admissions
1992, Virginia
1993, District of Columbia

Court Admissions
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Practices

Design Patents
Litigation
Patent Prosecution
Trademarks

Industries

Internet, E-Commerce + Business Methods

Accolades

Selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America, Patent Law, 2020

News + Events + Related Publications

[EVENT - 01.14.20](#)

Robert Katz To Present Webinar on Design Patent Enforcement

[NEWS - 12.12.19](#)

Banner Witcoff Duo Pens U.S. Chapter in Global Designs Guide

[NEWS - 12.10.19](#)

INTA Appoints Three Banner Witcoff Attorneys to Serve on Committees

[EVENT - 11.20.19](#)

Rob Katz to Moderate Design Patents Panel at INTA Leadership Meeting

[EVENT - 10.28.19](#)

Rob Katz to Examine Graphic User Interfaces for Stafford Webinar

[EVENT - 10.08.19](#)

Rob Katz to Moderate Oct. 10 Session at FICPI's Open Forum in Austria

[EVENT - 09.18.19](#)

Rob Katz, Christian LaForgia to Speak at AIPLA's Annual Meeting

[NEWS - 08.15.19](#)

Nine Banner Witcoff Attorneys Named to 2020 Edition of Best Lawyers in America

[EVENT - 07.17.19](#)

Rob Katz and Richard Stockton to Speak at AIPLA Design Rights Boot Camp

[NEWS - 06.06.19](#)

IAM Patent 1000 Recognizes Banner Witcoff, Nine Attorneys for Patent Prosecution, Litigation

[EVENT - 05.28.19](#)

Robert Katz To Examine Design Patent Claim Construction for Strafford Webinar

[NEWS - 05.21.19](#)

Banner Witcoff, 17 Attorneys Recognized in Managing Intellectual Property's "IP Stars" 2019 Guide

[NEWS - 12.12.18](#)

Robert S. Katz comments on INTA's Guidelines for Examination of Industrial Designs

[EVENT - 10.10.18](#)

Robert S. Katz and Richard S. Stockton present at "Intellectual Property Protection for Designs: An International Perspective" at the USPTO in Alexandria, Va.

[EVENT - 08.02.18](#)

John R. Hutchins and Robert S. Katz present at 2018 Annual Fall Institute on Intellectual Property Law in Galveston, Texas

[NEWS - 05.31.18](#)

Banner & Witcoff, attorneys recognized for patent and trademark practice in 2018 edition of Legal 500

[NEWS - 05.24.18](#)

Banner & Witcoff, 17 attorneys recognized in 2018 MIP IP Stars

[NEWS - 05.04.18](#)

IP Alert: Highlights of Design Day 2018

[NEWS - 05.02.18](#)

Robert S. Katz comments on design patent lawsuit involving Tesla and hydrogen-powered truck startup in Bloomberg Technology

[EVENT - 03.20.18](#)

Katie Laatsch Fink and Robert S. Katz moderate Table Topics at INTA's 2018 Annual Meeting in Seattle

[EVENT - 03.19.18](#)

Robert S. Katz moderates "Online Enforcement Panel" at 2018 USPTO Design Day in Alexandria, Va.

[NEWS - 03.15.18](#)

Banner & Witcoff, eight attorneys recognized for patent prosecution and litigation in 2018 IAM Patent 1000

[EVENT - 03.13.18](#)

Robert S. Katz presents encore Strafford webinar, "Leveraging Design Patents to Protect Graphical User Interfaces"

[PRESS - 03.05.18](#)

Banner & Witcoff Celebrates Innovations of Multinational Companies, Longtime Clients

[EVENT - 02.28.18](#)

Robert S. Katz and Richard S. Stockton present at AIPLA Design Rights Boot Camp in Arlington, Va.

[EVENT - 02.14.18](#)

Robert S. Katz presents encore Strafford webinar, "Design Patent Claim Construction: Written Description, Ornamentality, Functionality and More"

[EVENT - 01.02.18](#)

Robert S. Katz presents Strafford webinar, "Design Patent Claim Construction: Written Description, Ornamentality,

[EVENT - 12.27.17](#)

Robert S. Katz presents "Interplay Between Trademark, Copyright and Design Laws" at INTA 2018 Designs Conference in London

[NEWS - 12.15.17](#)

Robert S. Katz and Alisa S. Abbott write chapter on protecting and enforcing design rights in the United States for Designs: A Global Guide 2018

[NEWS - 06.07.17](#)

Banner & Witcoff, six attorneys recognized for patent prosecution and litigation in 2017 IAM Patent 1000

[NEWS - 06.02.17](#)

Sixteen Banner & Witcoff attorneys recognized as 2017 MIP IP Stars

[NEWS - 05.31.17](#)

Banner & Witcoff, seven attorneys recognized for patent prosecution in 2017 edition of Legal 500

[PRESS - 01.30.17](#)

Banner & Witcoff Becomes First Law Firm to Exceed 1,000 Design Patents in Single Year

[NEWS - 12.31.16](#)

Robert S. Katz provides update on legal issues around 3D printing and scanning technology for Design Management Review

[NEWS - 10.13.16](#)

Robert S. Katz discusses the potential effect of Samsung v. Apple on patent owners in Bloomberg BNA

[NEWS - 08.08.16](#)

Banner & Witcoff attorneys visit Camp Invention at Ft. Hunt Elementary in Alexandria, Va.

[NEWS - 08.05.16](#)

IDSA features Robert S. Katz for role in Samsung v. Apple amicus brief

[NEWS - 08.04.16](#)

Core77 highlights Robert S. Katz's role in 2016 IDSA International Conference

[NEWS - 06.14.16](#)

Banner & Witcoff Represents IDSA in Move to Protect Section 289

[NEWS - 06.13.16](#)

Banner & Witcoff represents Ellie's Hats pro bono, files three trademark applications for nonprofit that supports children with cancer

[NEWS - 05.27.16](#)

Banner & Witcoff, four attorneys recognized in 2016 IAM Patent 1000

[NEWS - 05.19.16](#)

Thirteen Banner & Witcoff Attorneys Recognized as 2016 MIP IP Stars, Helen Hill Minsker among "Top 250 Women in IP"

[NEWS - 04.21.16](#)

Robert S. Katz mentioned by IDSA for role in USPTO's 10th Annual Design Day

[PRESS - 02.26.16](#)

Banner & Witcoff Leads on Design Patents for 13th Consecutive Year

[NEWS - 11.25.15](#)

Robert S. Katz discusses the legal issues around 3D printing and scanning technology in Design Management Review

[NEWS - 11.17.15](#)

Robert S. Katz and Richard S. Stockton featured for role in first GW Law Design Patent Symposium in Intellectual Property Law Perspectives

[NEWS - 10.01.15](#)

Banner & Witcoff wins on summary judgment for Spanish baby care product client

[PRESS - 10.01.15](#)

Banner & Witcoff Wins on Summary Judgment for Spanish Baby Care Product Client

[NEWS - 09.30.15](#)

Robert S. Katz appointed as Vice Chair of INTA's Design Rights Committee

[NEWS - 06.17.15](#)

Banner & Witcoff, four attorneys recognized in 2015 IAM Patent 1000

[NEWS - 05.20.15](#)

IP Alert: Apple v. Samsung: The Federal Circuit Clarifies Design Patent Principles Law

[NEWS - 05.15.15](#)

Robert S. Katz discusses design patent filing considerations using the Hague Agreement in Law360

[PRESS - 02.12.15](#)

Banner & Witcoff Again Leads the Way in Design Patent Procurements

[NEWS - 11.25.14](#)

Design Patent Law Stakeholders Identify Trends Distinguishing Utility Patent Rules

[NEWS - 07.15.14](#)

Robert S. Katz joins discussion on intellectual property and crowd-funding in Medium

[NEWS - 05.13.14](#)

Twelve Banner & Witcoff Attorneys Recognized as 2014 MIP IP Stars

[PRESS - 02.24.14](#)

Banner & Witcoff Obtains Most Design Patents for 11th Consecutive Year

[NEWS - 12.04.13](#)

USPTO publishes proposed rule changes to implement Hague Agreement

[NEWS - 07.25.13](#)

Robert S. Katz discusses Banner & Witcoff's design patent practice in the ABA Journal

[NEWS - 05.23.13](#)

Twelve Banner & Witcoff Attorneys Recognized as MIP IP Stars

[NEWS - 05.07.13](#)

Robert S. Katz discusses user interface design patents in Designing for Humans

[NEWS - 05.01.13](#)

Robert S. Katz discusses design patents in Thomson Reuters

[NEWS - 03.15.13](#)

Robert S. Katz discusses Banner & Witcoff's design patent procurement record in Legal Bisnow

[PRESS - 01.30.13](#)

Banner & Witcoff Obtains Most Design Patents for 10th Consecutive Year

[NEWS - 12.19.12](#)

IP Alert: U.S. President Barack Obama Signed the Patent Law Treaties Implementation Act of 2012 into Law

[NEWS - 12.05.12](#)

House Passes the Legislation to Implement the Hague Agreement Concerning International Registration of Industrial Designs in the United States

[NEWS - 04.12.12](#)

Robert S. Katz is quoted in a Bloomberg BNA article on the Fordham Intellectual Property Law Institute Conference

[NEWS - 01.09.12](#)

Robert S. Katz to Meet with the USPTO on Behalf of FICPI

[PRESS - 01.03.12](#)

Banner & Witcoff Leads the Way in Design Patent Procurement for the Ninth Year in a Row

[NEWS - 10.06.11](#)

Bradley C. Wright serves as Editor-in-Chief of the 2011 supplement to Drafting Patents for Litigation and Licensing

[NEWS - 01.14.11](#)

Banner & Witcoff's Design Patent Record is covered in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin

[PRESS - 01.20.10](#)

Banner & Witcoff Leads the Way in Design Patent Procurement for the Seventh Year in a Row

[NEWS - 01.19.10](#)

Bradley C. Wright authors a new 2009 supplement to Drafting Patents for Litigation and Licensing

[PRESS - 01.10.10](#)

Banner & Witcoff Hits Milestone of Procuring Over 5,000 Design Patents; Leads the Way for the Eighth Year in a Row

[NEWS - 12.28.09](#)

Daniel G. Cardy and Robert S. Katz author a guest column on virtual design theft

[PRESS - 07.29.09](#)

Banner & Witcoff congratulates clients, Microsoft, NIKE and Nokia, for their designs honored at the 2009 IDEA awards for design excellence.

[NEWS - 06.15.09](#)

A Global Guide to Design Protection

[NEWS - 02.06.09](#)

Chicago Daily Law Bulletin recognizes Banner & Witcoff's Design Patent Record

[PRESS - 01.08.09](#)

Banner & Witcoff Leads the Way in Design Patent Procurement for the Third Year in a Row

[NEWS - 09.23.08](#)

Robert S. Katz comments on the decision in Egyptian Goddess in the Legal Times.

[NEWS - 09.23.08](#)

Robert S. Katz discusses the Egyptian Goddess decision in Bloomberg.

[PRESS - 09.23.08](#)

Banner & Witcoff Breaks the 2007 Design Patent Procurement Record

[NEWS - 09.18.08](#)

Drafting Patents for Litigation and Licensing authored by Banner & Witcoff attorneys is now available.

[NEWS - 09.02.08](#)

Robert S. Katz explains the basics of patenting an invention in Popular Science.

[NEWS - 08.27.08](#)

Robert S. Katz comments in IPLaw360 on Motorola's win in a Chinese design patent dispute.

[NEWS - 06.04.08](#)

Robert S. Katz comments on the Federal Circuit hearing in the Egyptian Goddess v. Swisa case in Managing Intellectual Property.

[NEWS - 05.01.08](#)

Robert S. Katz is named as one of the "Top 50 Under 45" intellectual property attorneys by IP Law & Business.

[NEWS - 03.27.08](#)

Announces Design Patent Interference Win

[NEWS - 01.16.08](#)

Robert S. Katz comments on Banner & Witcoff's design patent record in Chicago Daily Law Bulletin.

[PRESS - 01.09.08](#)

Banner & Witcoff Breaks Design Patent Procurement Record for the Second Year in a Row

[NEWS - 01.07.08](#)

Robert S. Katz explains the importance of patent protection in the fashion industry in the January 7, 2008 issue of Women's Wear Daily.

[NEWS - 12.13.07](#)

Robert S. Katz comments on the Hague Agreement in Managing Intellectual Property.

[NEWS - 10.17.07](#)

Robert S. Katz and Banner & Witcoff's Design Patent Practice are featured in The Legal Times article "A Picture-Perfect Patent".

[PRESS - 09.18.07](#)

Banner & Witcoff Breaks Design Patent Procurement Record

[NEWS - 04.09.07](#)

Robert S. Katz quoted in InformationWeek on mobile phone design patent dispute.

[PRESS - 11.16.06](#)

Banner & Witcoff Shatters Design Patent Procurement Record

[PRESS - 07.04.06](#)

Banner & Witcoff Breaks Design Patent Procurement Record on July 4

[NEWS - 06.27.06](#)

Robert Katz to serve in FICPI leadership positions

[PRESS - 10.06.05](#)

B&W Reaches Design Patent Milestone