



Lea Speed

Shareholder

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Lea Speed concentrates her practice in patent litigation and counseling regarding patent matters and market competition.

As a registered patent attorney, Ms. Speed has focused her practice on patent disputes for more than 25 years. She represents clients in patent litigation in federal courts throughout the United States, as well as before the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, and the International Trade Commission.

Ms. Speed has experience in a wide range of industries and technologies, including electronics, data centers, software, diagnostics, telecommunications, utilities, financial services, smart materials, chemical, aviation, medical and dental device and diagnostics, business systems, machinery, building materials and systems, municipal water and waste treatment, motor vehicles, equipment, manufacturing, packaging, consumer products, food and beverages, cooling and air circulation, plants, farming and agricultural machinery and equipment, and hunting gear. She has also represented a number of clients on both sides of the "v" (versus) in design patent cases.

In addition to the time she spends in the courtroom for patent disputes, Ms. Speed's practice includes providing opinions regarding patent infringement, patent invalidity, and freedom to operate; leading design-around efforts; negotiating royalties and patent licenses; and developing strategies to anticipate and avoid litigation.

Representative Matters

- Successfully defended a manufacturing company in federal court in Atlanta against patent infringement claims involving manufacturing processes, products produced by those processes, and systems incorporating those products, resulting in dismissal of all claims.
- Successfully defended a publicly traded company in federal court in Delaware against allegations of infringement of eight patents directed to products and materials that exhibit complex vapor characteristics, systems that include those products, and methods for manufacturing those products. Invalidated seven of the eight patents at claim construction, and the plaintiff settled the case regarding the remaining patent.
- Successfully defended a multinational company in federal court against allegations of infringing a patent directed to heavy equipment and machinery. Invalidated the patent at summary judgment.
- Successfully defended a chemical company in federal court against allegations of infringement of three patents directed to chemical compositions, methods of making those chemical compositions, and products that incorporate those chemical compositions. Obtained dismissal with prejudice of all claims.
- Successfully defended a company against two separate cases in federal court in Virginia against allegations of infringement of a patent directed to methods used in certain medical and biological testing. Obtained dismissal of both cases.
- Successfully opposed a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request to the New York State Department of Health concerning the processing and analysis of samples to extract DNA.
- Successfully represented a consumer products company with worldwide sales and distribution in a design patent infringement case in federal court in Wisconsin. Obtained a favorable resolution with summary judgment briefing pending.

- Provided ongoing guidance and strategic counsel to a publicly traded company regarding patent freedom to operate and patent design around for all new product development.
- Developed and implemented strategies for clients threatened with patent litigation, including: assessing risk and potential liability; developing and recommending affirmative and responsive strategies in the courts, the International Trade Commission, *Inter Partes* Review (IPR) proceedings, and/or patent reexamination proceedings; preparing and filing requests for declaratory judgment to aggressively attack and pursue preferred jurisdictions; developing and pursuing applicable noninfringement and invalidity defenses; and successfully negotiating and securing favorable licensing and covenants not to sue.



Professional Honors & Activities

- Board Member – Great Southern Capital Corporation for Great Southern Bank
- Board Member – Boys and Girls Club of Memphis
- Listed in *Mid-South Super Lawyers* in Intellectual Property Litigation (2020)
- Former Assistant Editor-in-Chief, Vice Chair of Editorial Board, Issue Editor, and Intake Editor – *Landslide Magazine* of the Intellectual Property Law Section of the American Bar Association
- Former Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary – Executive Council of the Intellectual Property Section of the Tennessee Bar Association
- Former Chair – Patent Bar Committee of the Tennessee Bar Association
- Recipient – 2004 Young Lawyer Fellowship, Intellectual Property Law Section of the American Bar Association
- Former Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary – Executive Committee of the Intellectual Property Section of the Mississippi Bar Association
- Member – Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law (TBALL), Class of 2004
- Former Representative, West Grand Division – TBALL Alumni Association Nominating Committee
- Former Board Member – Young Lawyers Division of the Tennessee Bar Association
- Former Member – CLE Committee for the Young Lawyers Division of the Tennessee Bar Association
- Memberships have further included: American Intellectual Property Law Association; Tennessee Intellectual Property Law Association; American, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Memphis Bar Associations (Intellectual Property sections); Association of Women Attorneys; and DRI



Teaching Experience

- Adjunct Professor of Patent Law – University of Mississippi School of Law (2004, 2008, 2011)
- Adjunct Professor of Intellectual Property Law – University of Mississippi School of Law (2008)
- Adjunct Professor of Legal Methods – University of Memphis School of Law (2001 – 2003)



Publications

- "USPTO Proposes Dramatic Restrictions on Patent Challenges Through Inter Partes Review," republished January 1, 2026, in *Federal News Network* (October 2025)
- "Insights from Month One of Acting Director Stewart's Decisions on Discretionary Denial under the *New Interim Processes for PTAB Workload Management* ," republished in *The IP Strategist* (June 2025)
- "Patents," *National Business Institute*
- "The Evolving Law of Personal Jurisdiction for Trademark Infringement on the Internet," 66 *Mississippi Law Journal* 457 (1996)



Speaking Engagements

- "The On-Sale Bar to Patentability," Tennessee Intellectual Property Law Association, Nashville, Tennessee

- "Patent Law II," University of Mississippi School of Law
- "The 102(b) Limbo: How Low Does the On-Sale Bar to Patentability Go?," Franklin Pierce Law Center, Concord, New Hampshire
- "Patent Law I," University of Mississippi School of Law
- "An Alternative Venue for Patent Infringement Litigation: The International Trade Commission," Tennessee Intellectual Property Forum, Nashville, Tennessee
- "Current Issues in Intellectual Property," University of Mississippi Center for Continuing Legal Education, Memphis, Tennessee
- "Practical Tips for Enforcing and Defending Patents," American Bar Association Intellectual Property Section Young Lawyers Committee, Boston, Massachusetts
- "Spotting I.P. Litigation Issues," telecast, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz Litigation Section
- "An Overview of Patent Litigation," Tennessee Intellectual Property Forum, Nashville, Tennessee
- "The Inside Information on Patents and Trademarks," University of Memphis
- "Effective Legal Writing for Paralegals in Tennessee," Institute for Paralegal Education, Memphis, Tennessee
- "Intellectual Property for the Paralegal," Greater Memphis Paralegal Alliance, Memphis, Tennessee
- "A Basic Overview of Patent Practice," University of Mississippi School of Law
- "Patent Prosecution and Patent Litigation," Tennessee Bar Association, Knoxville, Tennessee
- "Patent Prosecution and Patent Litigation," Tennessee Bar Association, Memphis, Tennessee
- "Patent Prosecution and Patent Litigation," Tennessee Bar Association, Nashville, Tennessee
- "Patents: An introduction to Prosecution and Litigation," University of Mississippi School of Law
- "Patents and Trademarks," University of Memphis
- "Protecting Business IP: Trademarks and Patents," University of Mississippi Center for Continuing Legal Education
- "Patents: A Basic Overview of Obtaining a Patent and Litigating Patent Infringement," Memphis Bar Association
- "Intellectual Property for the Entrepreneur I, II and III," University of Memphis M.B.A. Program



Webinars

- The Most Significant Developments in Patent Law in 2025 (September 2025)



Education

- University of Mississippi, J.D., 1998
- Mississippi State University, M.B.A., 1995
- Mississippi State University, B.S. in Aerospace Engineering, 1993



Admissions

- Pro hac admission granted in every U.S. district court requested, 1999 – present
- Registered to practice before U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 2001
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, 2003
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, 1998
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 2000
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, 2025
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, 2005
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, 1998
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan, 2003
- U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi, 2000
- Mississippi, 1999

- Tennessee, 1998