



# IP+T Group Out+About

December 2020

Members of Robinson+Cole's [Intellectual Property + Technology Group](#) have spoken and published on various industry related topics, been recognized in the community, and participated in high-profile industry group programs throughout the country.

Even when we're away from the office, we continue to follow developments and trends in all areas of intellectual property and technology law, and we share our insights on those changes in our *Intelligence* newsletter. If you haven't checked out our articles yet, we encourage you to [subscribe](#) to receive the newsletter and visit the Publications section of our [website](#). As always, we welcome your feedback and input on topics you'd like to see us cover. We hope to see you while we're "out and about."

## RECOGNITIONS

### Firm Earns First-Tier Rankings in Hartford, Boston, Delaware, Rhode Island, and Stamford Markets. *U.S. News – Best Lawyers* "Best Law Firms"

Robinson+Cole received 36 first-tier metropolitan rankings and four national rankings in the 2021 Edition of *U.S. News – Best Lawyers* "Best Law Firms." Recognition included:

- National – Tier 2 Information Technology Law
- Stamford, CT – Tier 1 Litigation – Intellectual Property
- Boston, MA – Tier 1 Information Technology Law

### Firm Lawyers Stand Out in Selection by Peers *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2021

Sixty-one Robinson+Cole lawyers were selected by their peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2021, 46 of whom are from Connecticut. The firm continues to have the highest number of recognized lawyers in the state. The list of Intellectual Property + Technology lawyers includes IP+T Group Chair, [Jackie Scheib](#), recognized as a Best Lawyer® in the categories of Copyright Law and Trademark Law, and [Kathleen Porter](#), who was named a Best Lawyers® 2020 "Lawyer of the Year" in Boston, Massachusetts, in the area of Information Technology Law.



[Jacqueline Pennino Scheib](#)

### Jackie Scheib Named a 2020/21 IP Star *Managing Intellectual Property*

Intellectual Property + Technology Group Co-Chair, [Jackie Scheib](#), has been named an IP Star in the 2020/21 edition of "IP STARS," published by *Managing Intellectual Property*, one of the industry's leading publications. Honorees are recognized as "the top practitioners in private practice who have performed exceptionally well for their clients and firms in the past year." Jackie was the only Connecticut-based lawyer highlighted as a Copyright Star and one of only seven to be ranked a Trade Mark Star for her work in the area of IP transactions. She was also cited in several Trade Mark categories, including strategy and counseling, litigation, prosecution, and office proceedings. In addition to these

accolades, Robinson+Cole was one of only nine “Recommended” law firms in Connecticut.

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[Maria A. Scungio](#)

### **Maria Scungio Recognized as Global Leader Who's Who Legal**

Maria Scungio has been recognized as a Global Leader in Who's Who Legal: Trademarks 2020. According to its website, “Who's Who Legal (WWL) is one of the world's leading directories of legal practitioners and non-lawyer consulting experts.” Maria was selected by her peers for inclusion in the publication. WWL is published by Law Business Research, an independent, London-based publishing group that provides research, analysis and reports on the international legal services marketplace.

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[John L. Cordani](#)

### **John Cordani Recognized as a Distinguished Leader Connecticut Legal Awards**

The *Connecticut Law Tribune* recognized Intellectual Property + Technology Group Co-Chair, John Cordani, during the publication's annual Connecticut Legal Awards on September 30, 2020. John received the Distinguished Leader Award for achieving “impressive results in 2019 and demonstrating clear leadership skills that helped achieve those results.” He is a Partner in the firm, focusing his practice on Intellectual Property litigation. John has litigated patent, trade secret, trademark, and antitrust cases through trial and appeal in federal courts across the United States, obtaining successful results in cases involving a diverse array of technology from specialty chemical products to automated pitching machines.

### **Seventy-six R+C Lawyers Are Spotlitged Super Lawyers®**

A total of 47 Robinson+Cole attorneys were named to *Super Lawyers*® lists in the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island for 2020. In addition, 29 attorneys at the firm were recognized as “Rising Stars,” including Hartford-based Partner, John Cordani, named in the category of Intellectual Property.

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[William J. Egan](#)

### **Bill Egan Tapped for Specialized American Arbitration Association Panel**

Bill Egan has been appointed to serve on the American Arbitration Association (AAA) Commercial Arbitration Panel. According to its website, “AAA panels are comprised of accomplished attorneys with exceptional subject-matter expertise; former federal and state judges; and business owners who understand the essence of the dispute.” Panelists must successfully complete the Arbitration Fundamentals and Best Practices for New AAA Arbitrators training program and the online Award Writing course in order to be appointed. IP disputes frequently fall under commercial disputes.

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[Kayla C. O'Leary](#)

### **Kayla O'Leary Named to CT Bar Association IP Legislation Committee**

Kayla O'Leary joined the Connecticut Bar Association's (CBA) Intellectual Property Legislative Committee. This committee reports up to the CBA Intellectual Property Section on matters related to proposed IP legislation.

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## Jackie Scheib Named Chair of American Red Cross CT Philanthropy Committee

Intellectual Property + Technology Group Chair, [Jackie Scheib](#), was named Chair of the Philanthropy Committee for the American Red Cross Connecticut Chapter on June 16, 2020. The Chapter currently serves more than 3.5 million people across Connecticut, helping individuals and families with immediate, disaster-caused needs for shelter food, clothing and emotional support. Jackie previously served as Vice Chair of the Committee.

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

### John Cordani Examines the U.S.-Mexico Patent Prosecution Agreement

[John Cordani](#) authored the article "The U.S.-Mexico Patent Prosecution Super-Highway" published by IPWatchdog on February 5, 2020. The article covers the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH), a type of patent examination fast-tracking and work-sharing agreement, shared between the patent offices in the United States and Mexico. The PPH between the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property (IMPI) was set to expire in June, but on January 28, "the Offices announced a new agreement that promises to improve upon the PPH system by creating an even 'more streamlined approach' to obtaining a Mexican patent once a corresponding U.S. patent is granted than that presently offered under the PPH." Read the [full article](#).

### John Cordani and Brian Moran Write on Federal Circuit Court Decision

[John Cordani](#) and [Brian Moran](#) authored the article "Fed. Circ. Leaves Room For Nonexpert Obviousness Opinions" published in Law360 on March 5, 2020. The article examines the extent to which, in patent trial practice, a party's lay witnesses may approach issues of obviousness in their testimony using the recent case *HVLPO2, LLC v. Oxygen Frog, LLC* 2020 WL 559108 (Fed. Cir., February 5, 2020) as an example.



[Brian E. Moran](#)

### Brian Moran Co-Authors Article for ACC Docket Highlighting Five "Guiding Principles" for Effective Mediation

[Brian Moran](#) co-authored the article, "Mock Trial Mediation: A More Effective and Cathartic Settlement Tool," published in the February 10, 2020 issue of ACC Docket. The article, co-written with Wendy L. Hufford, Principal Consultant, Effective Dispute Management LLC, proposes two templates in the context of private, non-binding mediation – the first "entailing an expedited, informal process," and the second "consisting of a more fulsome mock trial" - with the ultimate goal of settlement. The authors highlight five "guiding principle" features that would best enhance the desired outcome. Read the full article [here](#).

## PRESENTATIONS



[Kathleen M. Porter](#)

### Kathleen Porter Presents on Consultants Working with Nonprofits

[Kathleen Porter](#) presented "Select Issues in Collaborations Among Consultants Working with Nonprofits" as a featured speaker during the Hartford Foundation Consultant Collaborations Series webinar on select legal issues in collaborations among consultants on July 9, 2020. She spoke to the importance of addressing intellectual property ownership and rights, exclusivity, non-competition and non-solicitation, a process to address disputes, and exit. The program was part of a Hartford Foundation series for consultants working with the not-for-profit industry.

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### Jackie Scheib Joins CBA Panel on Intellectual Property Considerations for Businesses

[Jackie Scheib](#) was a panelist for the Connecticut Bar Association's moderated program, "Registering for Success: Strategies for Maximizing the Value of a Business's IP CLE" on January 21, 2020. The panel considered issues such as what a lawyer should make sure a business owner knows about intellectual

property, the role of IP in attracting interest and obtaining funding, what mistakes most commonly occur while a new business is first generating IP, and how IP problems can be prevented.

### **Maria Scungio Takes Part in World Intellectual Property Organization Session as Delegate**

Maria Scungio participated as a delegate to the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) 43rd Session on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, convened on November 23-26, 2020. She was designated at the request of the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI), for which Maria served as a past chair of AIPPI-US and is currently a member of AIPPI's Standing Committee on Trademarks. The WIPO delegate designation by AIPPI connotes recognition of interest and expert knowledge of the subject matter, in combination with demonstrated communication skills and experience in multi-national IP policy discussions. Maria's focus at this meeting session was international trademark law issues and consideration of opportunities for harmonization. Participation in this meeting was by invitation only, reflecting high-caliber, IP practice sophistication of the delegates designated.

WIPO is the United Nations' agency and forum for IP matters globally, including oversight of systems of IP rights protection and administration of treaties for, and development of, policies to foster the protection of IP rights, including those of indigenous peoples in fields of folk medicine and the arts.

### **Maria Scungio Among Panelists During 2020 AIPPI World Congress Online**

Maria Scungio was among the panelists for the session, "The Role of Fundamental Rights in Trademark Law" presented on October 13, 2020, during the 2020 AIPPI World Congress Online, October 5-14, 2020. Fundamental rights, such as the freedom of speech or expression and the right to property, can come into conflict with the rights associated with the registration and use of trademarks. In recent years, freedom of speech or expression, for example, played a role in cases discussing whether trademarks were contrary to public order or morality. It also was raised as a defense against allegations of trademark infringement in cases of parodies or art. The moderated panel session explored what fundamental rights are typically invoked in trademark matters and how a proper balance with the rights of trade mark owners can be ensured. Maria is the former chair of AIPPI-US and currently serves on the AIPPI Standing Committee on Trademarks.

### **Maria Scungio Joins Discussion at Practising Law Institute**

Maria Scungio presented "New IP Issues Impacting Business Transactions: Copyrights, Trademarks, Domain Names, Patents and Trade Secrets" as a panelist at the Practising Law Institute's program *IP Issues in Business Transactions 2020* in New York City on January 6, 2020. The panel discussion, which was also available as a webinar, offered an overview of recent developments in Intellectual Property law and an analysis of their impact on transactions involving copyrights, trademarks, patents, and trade secrets. The panel also addressed how to adapt IP transactions to the evolving and expanding business and technology landscapes.

Robinson+Cole's [Intellectual Property + Technology Group](#):

[Jacqueline Pennino Scheib](#) | [Nathaniel T. Arden](#) | [John L. Cordani](#)

[William J. Egan](#) | [Benjamin C. Jensen](#) | [Brian E. Moran](#)

[Kayla C. O'Leary](#) | [Kathleen M. Porter](#) | [Maria A. Scungio](#)

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