Cooley

Stephen Smith

Partner



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ITC Section 337 Litigation
Life Sciences IP Litigation
Commercial Litigation
Trials
Life Sciences and Healthcare
Medtech
Semiconductor
Software
Technology
Agricultural Sciences and Technology
Patent Office Litigation
Trade Secret Litigation and Dispute Counseling
Artificial Intelligence
CooleyREG
Employee Mobility, Competitive Hiring and Unfair Competition
Intellectual Property Litigation

Steve is chair of Cooley's nationally recognized intellectual property litigation practice, which was named a finalist for The American Lawyer's IP Litigation Department of the Year in 2023 and 2025. He is a top-tier, first-chair trial lawyer lauded for his "polished trial skills," having tried complex technology cases for some of the largest companies in the world in federal courts nationwide, as well as before the US International Trade Commission (ITC). Steve has a deep understanding of patents, trade secrets and technology-related issues, and he has been described as "one of the most knowledgeable and experienced patent litigators on the market."

Steve's trial and litigation experience centers on technology disputes in district courts and before the ITC. His broad district court experience includes successful jury trials for major smartphone manufacturers, semiconductor chipmakers and designers, iconic game companies, top software development companies, medical devices, manufacturers, government contractors and consumer credit companies throughout the US. Steve has argued and tried cases in US district courts that include the Northern District of California, the Eastern, Northern and Western Districts of Texas, the Northern District of Illinois and the Eastern District of Virginia, among others. He also has successfully tried cases at the ITC impacting billions of dollars in potential revenue and has made winning arguments at the US Court of Federal Claims.

Steve has litigated and tried dozens of complex patent and trade secret cases at the ITC as a government lawyer and in private practice. He's a longtime adjunct professor at the George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School, where he teaches a patent litigation class with particular emphasis on the ITC, as Cooley's ITC Section 337 investigation practice is one of the most sought out in the US.

Managing Intellectual Property named Steve an IP Star for eight consecutive years and shortlisted him for its 2023 Litigator of the Year – DC Metro award. In 2022, Intellectual Asset Management included Steve on its Patent 1000 list, which recognizes the top patent professionals in the world. In addition, The Legal 500 US has praised Steve's ITC Section 337 litigation experience, and he was elected to the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation in

2021.

Upon graduating from law school, Steve clerked with Justice Florence K. Murray in the Rhode Island Supreme Court, followed by a clerkship with Judge Robert W. Lovegreen in the US District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Education

The George Washington University Law School JD, cum laude, 1994

Villanova University BA, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 1991

Admissions & Credentials

District of Columbia

Massachusetts

Rhode Island

Virginia

Court Admissions

US District Court for the District of Columbia

US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

US District Court for the District of Maryland

US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

US District Court for the District of Massachusetts

US District Court for the District of Rhode Island

Rankings & Accolades

BTI Consulting Group: Client Service All-Star

IAM Patent 1000: Top Patent Lawyer

The Legal 500 US: Patents: Litigation (Full Coverage) (2023 – 2025)

The Legal 500 US: Trade Secrets (Litigation and Non-Contentious Matters) (2024 – 2025)

Managing Intellectual Property: DC Metro Litigator of the Year Finalist

Managing Intellectual Property: IP Star

Memberships & Affiliations

International Trade Commission Trial Lawyers Association