Master of Science in Patent Law

Master of Science in Patent Law Program
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www.law.umn.edu/legaledprograms/mspl.html

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THE MINNESOTA PATENT LAW EXPERIENCE

The Master of Science in Patent Law Program is an innovative new program at one of the nation’s premier public law schools. Our program is designed to prepare scientists and engineers for a broad range of high-demand career paths within the field of patent law. Whether you already have work experience or are coming straight from another degree program, we will expand your knowledge base, enhance your credentials, and prepare you for a bright and energizing future.

• Our focus from day one is on your future. We emphasize teamwork, problem solving, leadership, and persuasion. Students learn to think analytically, to identify the core elements of a complex problem, and to develop real-world solutions. As a part of the Master of Science in Patent Law Program, students are taught not merely how to be a part of the patent pipeline, but how to lead the entire innovation process — from idea, to patent, to value creation.

• Collegiality and accessibility define us. Our faculty includes some of the most accomplished and productive scholars in the world. Passionate about their research and committed to integrating theory and practice in their teaching, faculty are demanding in the classroom but eager to mentor and readily available to help students succeed along their chosen path.

• The Law School atmosphere is collegial and inclusive. One of the defining features of our program is that our masters students and our J.D. students study side-by-side. They share many of their classes, helping each other, learning from each other, and engaging together in the Law School community.

• The Twin Cities provides an ideal location for a patent law masters program. The Minneapolis/St. Paul community annually ranks as one of the most affordable, livable, and literate metropolitan areas in the country. It also is a hotbed of research and innovation, with one of the highest concentrations of Fortune 500 company headquarters in the country and one of the most active, broad, and prestigious patent bars in the country.

I invite you to peruse this brochure, contact us with questions, and come to visit. The University of Minnesota is a wonderful place to study patent law. Take a look, we think you’ll agree.

DAVID WIPPMAN, Dean

“I frequently comment to my peers, family, and friends about how engaging the program is, with a close-knit learning environment and personable instructors. As you are challenged with learning the ins and outs of patent law, you also are challenged to think creatively — something there isn’t much room for in fact-driven science courses. To these points, the M.S.P.L. program undoubtedly aligns with my interest in the combination of law, technology, creativity, and business.”

DREW TAYLOR (M.S.P.L. ‘15)
WORLD-CLASS AND COLLEGIAL

The outstanding faculty at the University of Minnesota Law School bring real-world experience, practice, and leading research into the classroom. Importantly, the faculty enjoy an exceptional depth in intellectual property law.

CORE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FACULTY

THOMAS F. COTTER
BRIGGS & MORGAN
PROFESSOR OF LAW

Professor Cotter has won teaching awards, research awards, and prizes for papers about patent law. Among his many publications is a text on Comparative Patent Remedies: A Legal and Economic Analysis. Professor Cotter’s courses include Patents, Advanced Patents, Antitrust & Intellectual Property, Intellectual Property, and Unfair Competition.

WILLIAM McGEVERAN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND VANCE OPPERMAN RESEARCH SCHOLAR

Professor McGeveran’s research and scholarly publications focus on rules governing digital identity and data privacy, including European versus American approaches to data protection. His courses include Data Privacy & Security, Trademark Law, and Internet Law.

RUTH OKEDJI
WILLIAM L. PROSSER
PROFESSOR OF LAW

Professor Okediji is one of the foremost experts on international IP law and international economic regulation. Her research focuses on issues of innovation policy, economic development, and global knowledge governance in the context of international institutions and public international law. Her books include International Patent Law and Policy and Global Perspectives on Patent Law. Among many other appointments, she has served as a consultant for the World Intellectual Property Organization.

DANIEL J. GIFFORD
ROBINS, KAPLAN, MILLER & CRES S
PROFESSOR OF LAW


THOMAS F. COTTER
BRIGGS & MORGAN
PROFESSOR OF LAW

Professor Cotter recently won a Samsung-Stanford Patent Prize for an article he wrote on patent remedies.

WILLIAM McGEVERAN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND VANCE OPPERMAN RESEARCH SCHOLAR

Before PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE RALPH F. HALL joined the Law School, he served for many years in a variety of capacities with Guidant Corporation and with Eli Lilly. He uses that rich experience to teach Food and Drug Law to both J.D. students and Master of Science in Patent Law students. The result? “Professor Hall makes Food and Drug Law easy to understand with his past personal experiences and humor.”

BRIAN BANIA (M.S.P.L. ‘15)

Professor William McGeveran testifying before Congress on the Video Privacy Protection Act.

ADJUNCT FACULTY bring specialized knowledge as well as a wealth of practical experience. These faculty include patent and intellectual property attorneys from private law firms as well as in-house counsel. A few of the Law School’s current intellectual property adjuncts include:

GREGORY C. BROWN
SENIOR ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL,
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MARK ELLINGER
FISH & RICHARDSON

CHRISTA E. HEAD
JASON R. KRAUS
FAEGRE BAKER DANIELS

KENT SIEFFERT
STEVEN SHUMAKER
SHUMAKER & SIEFFERT

Professor Ruth Okediji served as chief negotiator for Nigeria and the African Group during international intellectual property talks in Marrakesh, Morocco.
PREPARED

The Master of Science in Patent Law curriculum prepares students for the rigors of a wide range of challenging and invigorating career paths. Importantly, the curriculum is not a segregated one. Masters students take many of their classes with JD students, creating an environment that more closely simulates the work world and that enriches the experience of all. Patent masters students also have the opportunity to take advantage of the strength of the University’s science and engineering programs by taking advanced classes in their area of technical specialization.

“Or we may touch on the patentability of surgical methods in Patent Prosecution, talk about how to effectively and properly draft surgical method patent claims, and then go more in depth about the enforcement of those claims in Patent Law. The professors are all very approachable and are able to answer questions clearly. Many of the professors have begun calling upon our expertise in technical fields to help explain complex biological topics or issues to the class, a common subject in patents.”

BEAU MILLER (M.S.P.L. ’15)
### Core Courses

**AUGUST**
- INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM

**FALL**
- PATENT LAW
- PATENT PROSECUTION I
- PATENT PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT
- PATENT LAW PROSEMINAR I
- WRITING, ANALYSIS & PERSUASION

**SPRING**
- PATENT PROSECUTION II
- PATENT APPLICATION DRAFTING
- INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS
- ETHICS FOR PATENT AGENTS
- PATENT LAW PROSEMINAR II
- CAPSTONE: INNOVATION

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### Electives

Students may choose from a wide array of legal and technical elective courses in order to complete their degree requirements and pursue coursework that advances their personal and professional objectives. Enrollment in electives is subject to approval of the student’s academic advisor. Some electives may not always be available or may conflict with required courses.

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“The knowledge and training I am getting is exactly what I expected. But the most important thing is, little by little, I have a better idea about what I can do and what I really want to do.”

CHENG LI (M.S.P.L. ’15)
ENERGETIC AND INNOVATIVE

The Twin Cities is one of the most energetic, livable, and literate communities in the country, distinguished by a nationally renowned park system with hundreds of miles of trails and an amazing chain of lakes, the largest theater community outside New York, a vibrant music scene, numerous professional and Big Ten sports teams, and a new light rail system just steps from the Law School’s front door. Importantly, it also is a hub of innovation and patent activity, with businesses large and small seeking patent and intellectual property portfolio assistance, and scores of law firms providing patent prosecution and litigation services.

“We started the Master of Science in Patent Law because the University of Minnesota is one of the premier research universities in the world, situated in one of the world’s most innovative metropolitan communities.”

SHARON REICH PAULSEN, ASSOCIATE DEAN

MINNEAPOLIS:
#2 Patents in Medical Devices
#3 Bioscience Related Patents
#6 Patents Per Capita
#7 Most Innovative State
#9 Invention Patents
#10 R&D Expenditures
#10 Number of Fortune 500 Companies
#10 S&P 500 Companies

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL:
#7 Utility Patents Awarded
#8 Patents Awarded Between 2006-2010
#9 Neurotechnology

MINNEAPOLIS:
#1 Park System in the Nation
#1 Best Midwest City for Green Communities
#1 Top City for Arts Funding
#2 Healthiest City in the U.S.
#3 Best City for Cyclists
#3 Most Literate City in the U.S.
#4 Cleanest City in the World

MINNESOTA:
#1 State Fair
#3 Safest State to Live In
#3 Best State for Well-Being
#4 Happiest State in America
EDUCATION THAT CREATES EXCITING CAREER PATHWAYS

The Master of Science in Patent Law program at the University of Minnesota Law School is broad and diverse. The intent is to prepare you for a range of potential career paths, and to provide the tools and knowledge that will enhance your ability to continue to grow and advance long after you receive your degree. The program not only prepares you for a career as a patent agent or patent examiner, but it also prepares you for a wide range of additional opportunities within the patent landscape.

“\'I feel confident that we’re developing a very strong, and very marketable, skill set.\'”

HEATHER CHATTERTON (M.S.P.L. ’15)

PATENT LAW PATHWAYS

INNOVATION
Many exciting career paths exist at the front end of the innovation process. As a scientist or engineer, the ability to understand the patent landscape will help you become a better innovator. Alternatively, you can use your patent knowledge to identify new opportunities for innovation in areas such as competitive intelligence, business development, technology management, and patent analysis. This career path can lead to placement at a start-up company, venture capital firm, Fortune 500 corporation, or any organization benefiting from the ability to turn patent knowledge into innovation insights.

PATENT PROSECUTION
Patent prosecution is at the core of patent law, and represents the most in-demand career path for students. In the patent world, the process of drafting and filing patent applications with the United States Patent & Trademark Office is commonly referred to as “patent prosecution.” Success in this area demands strong writing skills, analytical ability, and technical competency. This career path can lead to placement either at a law firm or at a corporation, and can focus on a specific area of technology or extend across a wide range of technologies.

PATENT PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT
A successful product is not the result of a single great idea, but hundreds of ideas - some patentable, some not. As companies become more sophisticated in their patent strategies there is an increasing demand for patent portfolio managers who have a background in patent law, business concepts, and technology, and can use that background to help a company protect its current business and put it in a position for future growth. This role is for someone who works well in a cross-functional team and is able to manage and present complex information in a simple format. This career path includes positions such as science advisor, patent portfolio manager, and patent liaison.

VALUE EXTRACTION
Patents are the currency of innovation. They are transformed into monetary value in the form of patented products, patent licensing agreements, or successful patent litigation against an infringer. Many research organizations have a technology transfer office devoted to monetizing their intellectual property investments. The technology transfer role is for the successful networker who enjoys technology and its commercialization. On the litigation side, many law firms hire technology experts to help prepare for successful patent litigation.
TALENTED, DIVERSE, AND ENGAGED STUDENTS

The Master of Science in Patent Law students come from disciplines ranging from engineering to biology to pharmaceutics, they have degrees ranging from B.S. to M.S. to Ph.D. to M.D., and they come from as close as Minneapolis and as far as Hawaii and China. They have an elected representative on Law Council, the law school's student government, on the executive board of the Student Intellectual Property Law Association, and they have formed their own student group, Patent Masters. The Master of Science in Patent Law students take classes with J.D. students and LL.M. students, and are fully integrated into the life of the law school. They are even welcome to join the Fighting Mondales hockey team and the law school's Theater of the Relatively Talentless (TORT).

“I am impressed with how welcoming and accommodating each professor, speaker, student, and guest at the Law School has been.”

BRIAN BANIA (M.S.P.L. '15)

Associate Dean Sharon Reich Paulsen and Program Director Chris Frank with members of the MSPL Class of 2015.

CHRIS FRANK, PROGRAM DIRECTOR
The Program Director, Chris Frank, is a chemical engineer and patent lawyer. As a patent practitioner, he has represented clients ranging from individual inventors to Fortune 500 corporations, and has worked in technologies ranging from simple children’s toys to complex medical devices. Mr. Frank has worked both in private practice and as a patent portfolio manager for an international biotechnology firm. Prior to entering the field of patent law, he worked as a product development engineer in the medical field.

GET INFORMATION AND APPLY TODAY!
Application material and directions are available online at www.law.umn.edu/legaledprograms/mspl.html