



Melissa A. Beede

Counsel

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Education

Tufts University, BS,
Electrical Engineering,
summa cum laude

Suffolk University Law
School, JD, *magna cum
laude*

Practice Groups

Electrical & Computer
Technologies

Mechanical Technologies

Melissa Beede has over seventeen years of experience protecting innovations in function and design in the areas of software, electronics, medical devices and consumer products. She collaborates with her clients to understand their unique challenges and opportunities and strengthen their competitive positions. As counsel for startups, venture capital firms, Fortune 500 companies, universities and hospitals, she has helped her clients achieve business goals ranging from attracting financing to commercializing products to selling IP assets.

Melissa's practice is broad and deep and includes portfolio development, patent prosecution in the U.S. and abroad, due diligence studies, product clearance assessments, licensing negotiations, litigation, and post-grant matters. She has extensive experience in design patents, which she often avails as a low-cost, high-value component of an overall IP strategy.

Her areas of technical experience include heart catheters, school and office supplies, dialysis systems, sterilization devices, RFID sensors, electrocardiogram equipment, recycling machines, data storage systems, locating devices, imaging systems, speech recognition platforms, consumer electronics, navigation systems, and software applications.

Melissa is recognized for providing responsive, client-oriented service. She seeks to continuously cultivate trust by delivering solutions that meet budgets, deadlines and commercial objectives.

Experience

- Developed and managed patent portfolio of company that

provides RFID-enabled monitoring and data analysis systems, resulting in acquisition of the company and its IP assets by a field leader.

- Working closely with product development company, built portfolio of medical and consumer product patents and assisted with licensing the IP to Fortune 500 company.
- Evaluated numerous patents asserted against client by major patent holder, and contributed to license negotiations for the asserted patents that lead to a substantial reduction in the royalties requested.
- On behalf of venture capital firm, evaluated the IP of early stage semiconductor startup, performed product clearance assessments, and developed a comprehensive IP strategy.
- Over the course of several years, advised major consumer products company on issues of infringement, including strategies for avoiding infringement, in connection with over 50 products.

Activities

- Worldwide Technovation competition, mentor and judge
- Wellesley Public Schools, member of Advisory Committee on STEAM Education and Profile of a Graduate Task Force
- Wellesley Education Foundation, Board Member

Recognition

Melissa has been recognized as a “Rising Star” by Super Lawyers magazine for her work in intellectual property law for nine consecutive years (2009-2017). She has also been named by the magazine as one of the “Top Women Lawyers in Massachusetts.”

At Suffolk Law, Melissa was awarded an Academic Leadership Scholarship for being among the top five students in her section, “Best Brief” in Legal Practice Skills, and an American Jurisprudence Award in Administrative Law.

At Tufts, Melissa was elected to several honor societies including Tau Beta Pi, Eta Kappa Nu and Golden Key, and won several academic awards including the Morris and Sid Heyman Prize for “academic achievement and future promise” among Electrical Engineering students, and the Class of 1898 Prize for “high scholarly ability together with a wide range of intellectual interests and competence.” She served two terms as Co-President of the Society of Women Engineers.

Interests

Melissa enjoys sharing her love of technology and innovation with the next generation. She has served as a mentor and judge for the worldwide Technovation competition, judge and organizer of the inaugural Wellesley CreateAthon, member of advisory committees on STEAM education and 21st century learning, and Board member of the Wellesley Education Foundation.

Melissa also enjoys learning about other cultures and locales and can often be found planning her next trip with her husband or family. Recent favorites have included hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, watching wildebeest cross the Mara River during the Great Migration, tracking a family of mountain gorillas in Rwanda, roasting marshmallows on an active volcano, and dining with Berber families in the High Atlas Mountains.