

Steven M. Auvil

Partner

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About Steven

Steve Auvil is the managing partner of our Cleveland office and previously served as leader of the US litigation segment of the firm's Intellectual Property & Technology Practice Group for nearly a decade. His practice focuses on intellectual property (IP) and technology disputes. Based on experience as an engineer and patent lawyer, Steve is familiar with a wide variety of technologies, including control systems, power electronics, communication systems, medical devices, steel production, complex mechanical systems and software systems. Steve is listed in *Chambers USA Leading Lawyers (Band 1)*, *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Forbes' inaugural Best-in-State Lawyers* for 2025.

In more than 25 years of practicing law, Steve has served as lead trial counsel and successfully represented clients in numerous patent, trade secret, copyright and trademark/trade dress cases in federal district courts throughout the US. In addition to successfully trying cases to verdict, he has argued patent-related appeals before the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. In addition, he has handled numerous disputes before US administrative agencies, including section 337 actions before the US International Trade Commission and IPR proceedings before the Patent Trial and Appeals Board. Steve has also tried IP-related disputes before arbitration tribunals.

While Steve's practice focus is on disputes, he has considerable non-litigation experience, including counseling clients on IP matters, preparing and prosecuting patent applications, and negotiating agreements that involve IP. He has been appointed by the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center as an arbitrator in more than 75 domain name disputes.

Steve is a current or past member of numerous professional organizations, including the American Bar Association, the Naples Roundtable, Cleveland Intellectual Property Law Association (CIPLA), ITC Trial Lawyers Association and the Federal Circuit Bar Association. He is a Fellow of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation.

Steve is a frequent speaker on IP law topics and has addressed to clients, industry groups and IP organizations throughout the US and abroad on a wide variety of intellectual property law topics. He previously taught a patent law and practice course as an adjunct faculty member of the Cleveland State University College of Law. He has been quoted in numerous news articles relating to intellectual property matters, including those appearing in *Law360*, *Bloomberg Law* and *World Intellectual Property Review*.

Steve is a past-president of CIPLA, he previously held a number of leadership positions in American Intellectual Property Law Association, and he was the inaugural president of The Kathleen M. O'Malley American Inn of Court.

Steve is also civically active in Greater Cleveland. He is currently on the board and vice-chair of Team NEO Foundation, a regional economic development organization; a trustee of the Playhouse Square Foundation, which operates one of the largest performing arts centers in the US; and a board member of The City Club of Cleveland, a non-partisan free speech forum. He is also a member of The 50 Club of Cleveland, an invitation-only civic organization of top business, professional and cultural leaders, as well as active in government affairs council of the Greater Cleveland Partnership, the region's chamber of commerce. He previously served on the board of the American Red Cross, Northeast Ohio Region (2019-2025) and was a member of the Cleveland Leadership Center's Leadership Cleveland Class of 2024.

Experience

- Representing provider of parking services in action against former employee for breach of confidentiality obligations and trade secret theft.
- Successfully represented provider of online marketplace for transportation services in action against former employee for trade secret misappropriation and violation of confidentiality duties, obtaining emergency and permanent injunctive relief.
- Successfully prosecuted patent infringement action for one of the world's largest tire and rubber companies, resulting in cessation of infringement.
- Successfully defended leading provider of corporate identity uniforms in trade secrets dispute related to garment tracking systems.
- Successfully defended leading provider of underground utility location and damage protection services in patent infringement action involving vehicle tracking systems.
- Successfully tried to verdict patent infringement action on behalf of a leading producer of key duplication systems against competitor.
- Successfully defended national retailer in patent and trademark dispute involving consumer product.
- Successfully defended leading marketer of hoverboards in multiple patent infringement actions brought by competitors, including one in which asserted patent claims were invalidated in parallel PTAB proceeding.
- Successfully defended producer of product marking systems in patent infringement suit brought by competitor.
- Successfully defended watch marketer in trademark and unfair competition litigation brought by competitor, and related TTAB proceedings.
- Successfully defended national marketer of CBD products in litigation relating to restrictive covenants and claims of unfair competition.

- Successfully defended leading medical equipment provider in patent infringement suit involving Operating Room integration systems in which settlement was reached after IPR filed against patent in suit and evidence of fraud in the procurement of the patent was presented to the court.
- Successfully defended national retailer in patent infringement action involving wallet app in which plaintiff dismissed suit in response to motion to dismiss suit and threat of Rule 11 sanctions.
- Successfully defended leading marketer of phone accessories in global patent litigation with competitor, which was resolved after asserted patent claims were invalidated in US and in China in related administrative challenge proceedings.
- Successfully defended leading power management company in district court proceeding involving multiple patents and in related challenge proceedings before the U.S. Patent Trial and Appeal Board.
- Successfully extracted major producer of generators and other motorized equipment from patent-based section 337 unfair imports dispute before the US International Trade Commission, resulting in termination of distributor from the investigation and no remedy issued against it.
- Successfully defended consumer product company in a design patent infringement action in which district court granted motion to dismiss claim for failure to state a claim, and Federal Circuit affirmed on appeal in case of first impression.
- Successfully defended wearable technology company in patent infringement litigation brought by competitor, resulting in judgement of non-infringement and award of attorneys' fees based on finding that it was an "exceptional case" under 28 U.S.C. § 285.
- Successfully defended web entertainment provider in patent infringement suit in ED Texas, in which client obtained judgment in its favor after court granted motion to dismiss for lack of patentable subject matter.
- Successfully represented producer of snow and ice management equipment in multiple patent infringement actions against competitor in district courts and parallel IPR proceedings in USPTO.
- Successfully represented leading provider of alert notification systems accused of patent infringement in US district court, resulting in judgment of invalidity on the pleadings of 233 patent claims.
- Successfully defended major US metals distributor in a trade secrets-based section 337 unfair imports dispute brought by competitor in the US International Trade Commission involving stainless steel, resulting in termination of distributor from the investigation and no remedy issued against it.
- Successfully represented provider of radio frequency audience response systems in two patent infringement suits filed in US district court against its largest competitor, and in parallel challenge proceedings in USPTO.
- Successfully defended power management company in patent infringement suit involving electronic power distribution units and in parallel challenge proceedings in USPTO.
- Successfully defended leading high efficiency lighting producer in a section 337 unfair imports dispute before the US International Trade Commission involving lighting circuits in which ALJ issued initial determination of no violation after five-day hearing.
- Successfully prosecuted patent infringement claims against distributors of infringing home appliances, obtaining injunctions against infringers.

- Successfully defended leading power management company in patent infringement action relating to hydraulic engine components in which court held on summary judgment that plaintiff lacked standing to sue on nine patents for failure to name additional inventors.
- Successfully prosecuted patent infringement claims for leading commercial product manufacturer against offshore competitor, obtaining injunction and lawyers' fee award.
- Successfully defended leading heavy equipment producer in a patent infringement case relating to hydraulic control systems in which district court awarded our client attorneys' fees and Federal Circuit affirmed.
- Successfully defended leading high efficiency lighting producer in ICC arbitration of a patent license dispute in which panel held license unenforceable after seven-day hearing.
- Successfully defended leading seller of home fitness equipment against patent infringement and state law claims relating its distribution of popular fitness equipment in which district court granted summary judgment and Federal Circuit affirmed.

Credentials

Education

- New York University, LL.M., Trade Regulation, 1994
- Cleveland State University, J.D., *summa cum laude*, valedictorian, editor, *Law Review*, 1993
- The Ohio State University, B.S.M.E., 1988

Admissions

- District of Columbia, 2014
- Ohio, 1994
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 1997

Courts

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Ct. of App., Federal Circuit
- U.S. Ct. of App., Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of Ohio
- U.S. Dist. Ct., S. Dist. of Ohio
- U.S. Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of Illinois
- U.S. Dist. Ct., E. Dist. of Texas
- U.S. Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of Texas
- U.S. Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of Florida
- U.S. Dist. Ct., W. Dist. of Wisconsin
- U.S. Dist. Ct., E. Dist. of Wisconsin

Memberships & Affiliations

- Board Member and Vice-Chair, Team NEO Foundation

- Member of Board of Trustees, Playhouse Square Foundation
- Board Member, The City Club of Cleveland
- Member, The 50 Club of Cleveland
- Board Member, American Red Cross, Northeast Ohio Region (2019-2025)
- Member, Government Affairs Council of Greater Cleveland Partnership

Recognitions

- Listed in Forbes 2025 "America's Best-In-State Lawyers" Inaugural publication
- Recognized as a Patent Star in IP Stars 2025, *Managing IP*
- Named as a Leader by *World Intellectual Property Review (WIPR)* 2025
- 2023 Cleveland State University College of Law Hall of Fame Honoree
- Named *Best Lawyers* 2019 Lawyer of the Year for Patent Litigation in Cleveland
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2006 to present
- Listed in *Chambers USA* 2008 to present for Intellectual Property in Ohio
- Listed in *Ohio Super Lawyers*, a distinction honoring the top lawyers in the state of Ohio
- 2005 recipient of the Texnikoi Outstanding Alumnus Award from The Ohio State University College of Engineering

Expertise

Services

- Intellectual Property & Technology

Publications & Speaking Engagements

Publications

- Co-author, "Trends and Developments," *Chambers Patent Litigation 2021*, February 15, 2021.
- Co-author, "Global Business Fraud and the Law: Preventing and Remedying Fraud and Corruption," *Practicing Law Institute*, October 2015.
- Co-author, "Saving Face," *Intellectual Property Magazine*, February 2013.

Speaking Engagements

- Presenter, "The State of Law: Insights from Law Firm Leaders," Crain's Power Breakfast, March 25, 2026.
- Moderator, "Fireside Chat: Hon. Kathleen O'Malley & Hon. Richard Linn (0.5)," Intellectual Property & Innovation Law Conference, November 14, 2025.
- Moderator, "Fireside Chat with Judge O'Malley (Ret.) and Judge Linn," The Cleveland Intellectual Property Law Association (CIPLA), November 13, 2025.
- Presenter, "Safeguarding Innovation in the Aerospace Industry," Squire Patton Boggs Seminar, August 12, 2025.

- Moderator, "Building and Leveraging a Dynamic Intellectual Property (IP) Portfolio, presented by Squire Patton Boggs," Association of Corporate Counsel, February 25, 2025.
- Presenter, "Leahy Institute of Advanced Patent Studies 2024," The Naples Roundtable 9th Annual Conference, February 18-20, 2024.
- Presenter, "Changes in IP that Changed Everything And Where We Are Going: Inventor Perspective and Lawyer Retrospective," Intellectual Property & Innovation Law Conference, September 16, 2022.
- Presenter, "Patent Litigation: Trends, Tensions, and Transitions" Webinar, March 30, 2021.
- Presenter, "The Pendulum Swings: Litigation Trends of the Past Year," Intellectual Asset Management IP 2020 Conference, November 17, 2020.
- Moderator, "Virtual Fireside Chat with The Honorable Kathleen M. O'Malley," Cleveland Intellectual Property Law Association Webinar, September 29, 2020.
- Presenter, "Remote Video Deposition Protocols: Developing Guidelines for Effective and Efficient Remote Depositions," Federal Bar Association Webinar, June 30, 2020.
- Presenter, "The Current State of U.S. Patent Litigation: Have We Reached the Bottom Yet?" Webinar, April 9, 2020.
- Presenter, "Phoenix Issue VI. Is the patent litigation being abusively utilized today or have "Troll" actions been significantly curbed? Have IPRs, recent Court decisions, changes in venue selection and the more frequent award of attorneys' fees helped? What actions should be taken to improve the quality of the patents that are issued?" 5th Annual Conference run by the Naples Roundtable, Naples, Florida, February 16-18, 2020.
- Moderator, "Navigating the US Litigation Climate," Intellectual Asset Management Patent Litigation, Washington DC, November 5, 2019.
- Presenter, "A Corporate Counsel's Toolbox for Managing Privileged Communications," Association of Corporate Counsel Northeast Ohio, Cleveland, October 31, 2018.
- Presenter, "Post-Grant Proceedings Before The PTAB: Insights and Tips from the Trenches," Cleveland Intellectual Property Law Association, Cleveland, December 7, 2017.
- Presenter, "The Halo Effect on Patent Infringement Risk: Should You Revisit Your Corporate Strategy for Mitigating Risk?" Cleveland, Ohio, March 23, 2017.
- Presenter, "The Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016: Leveraging the New Federal Framework to Protect IP," Webinar, July 26, 2016.
- Presenter, "Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016," Webinar, June 9, 2016.
- Presenter, "IP Issues in M&A Transactions – Avoiding Pitfalls and Protecting Value When Doing Deals," Cleveland, Ohio, February 18, 2016.
- Presenter, "A Supreme Change to the US Patent Landscape," Webinar, February 25, 2015.

About our firm

One of the world's strongest integrated law firms, providing insight at the point where law, business and government meet. We deliver commercially focused business solutions by combining our legal, lobbying and political capabilities and invaluable connections on the ground to a diverse mix of clients, from long-established leading corporations to emerging businesses, startup visionaries and sovereign nations. More than 1,500 lawyers in over 40 offices across four continents provide unrivaled access to expertise.