



Karl A. Hefter

PARTNER

EDUCATION

Franklin Pierce Law Center
J.D. (cum laude) 2010

University of Idaho
Computer Engineering
B.S. (magna cum laude) 2005

INDUSTRIES

AI, Machine Learning & Robotics
Electrical Engineering
Semiconductors
Software & Internet
Telecommunications

PRACTICES

Patent

BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado
Washington
United States Patent
and Trademark Office

BACKGROUND

Karl's practice focuses on patent prosecution of computer engineering and computer science matters. His expertise includes drafting and prosecuting utility and design patents in the United States and in many foreign jurisdictions. Karl has drafted and prosecuted patents in many different technical fields, including: telecommunications, distributed systems and cloud computing, audiovisual content distribution and set-top boxes, automobile head units, smart signs, video encoding, wireless power systems, social networks, online content management and delivery, image processing, AI-related systems, noise reduction/cancellation, drone technology, networks, email systems, video games, and other software-related technologies. Karl's broad range of patent experience allows him to communicate efficiently and effectively with inventors, in-house counsel, and executives. Karl excels in providing portfolio management and developing drafting and filing strategies for single inventors, startups, and multinational corporations.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® Ones to Watch, 2022-2023

EXPERIENCE

Karl has been practicing patent law for over 14 years. Before to joining Seed IP, Karl worked as an associate at two other Seattle-area law firms. He has served as a guest lecturer at Washington State University in a senior-level engineering class related to intellectual property. Prior to attending law school, Karl worked as a systems engineer for SAIC, where he was a member of a Technical Management Team for a large software and hardware integration subcontract.

AFFILIATIONS

Karl is admitted to the state bars of Washington and Colorado, and he is registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. He is a member of the Washington State Patent Law Association (WSPLA).

PUBLICATIONS

Karl Hefter, "Protecting Inventor and Corporate Privacy in Previously Recorded Assignment Documents," October 7, 2024.

Karl is a co-author of "No Respect for the Dead: Protecting Deceased Celebrity Personality Rights," published by BNA's Patent, Trademark & Copyright Journal (September 2008).