

Snell & Wilmer



Christopher Franich

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Main Bio

Chris Franich is an intellectual property attorney in Snell & Wilmer's San Diego office who concentrates his practice in patent prosecution, intellectual property portfolio counseling and transactions, and USPTO proceedings. During his over 10 years of practice, he has developed and executed intellectual property strategies for clients ranging from startups to Fortune 100 companies and he utilizes this extensive experience to serve as a trusted advisor to his clients. Chris also has experience developing and managing domestic and international patent portfolios.

Chris has advised companies across an array of technologies, including medical devices, instrumentation, software generally, machine-learning, electro-mechanical, imaging, composite structures, consumer goods generally, and design patents. He has experience in pre-suit dispute resolution as well as adversarial settings, such as district court patent litigation, matters before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), and arbitration, providing valuable insight in his portfolio counseling and related risk evaluation.

Prior to starting his law career, Chris graduated with a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of California, San Diego and worked as a mechanical engineer at a large aerospace manufacturer developing unmanned air vehicles. He also served in the Peace Corps in Honduras as a civil engineer implementing water systems and renewable energy systems.

Representative Experience

- Provided day-to-day patent portfolio counseling for several subsidiaries of multinational pharmaceutical industry companies, including ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke therapies, stents, flow diverters, revascularization devices, cardiac ablation catheters, balloon catheters, programmable neurovascular implants, cardiac support jackets, related instrumentation, contact lenses, auto injectors, clinically evaluated medical devices, and related operational and dosing software applications
- Represented an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven healthcare technology company working in the life sciences, oncology, pathology, machine learning, and healthcare spaces with patent prosecution
- Represented a San Diego-based medical device firm with patent portfolio development and patent ownership dispute related to electrostatic sprayers
- Provided day-to-day patent portfolio counseling for a publicly traded electric vehicle company
- Represented a multinational aerospace technology company with patent prosecution
- Represented a mobile navigation software developer in a funded patent litigation dispute

- Represented a San Diego-based tactical training service and product provider in litigation related to the enforcement of patent rights
- Represented a sheet wave developer in litigation before district court, the Federal Circuit, and inter partes review (IPR) before the USPTO on issues related to patent litigation, trade secrets, and patent ownership
- Represented a therapeutic compression garment manufacturer with patent portfolio development and patent litigation
- Represented a military grade device case manufacturer with its development of an extensive patent portfolio as part of an acquisition strategy
- Assisted with the representation of a luxury candy provider with its development of an extensive patent portfolio and intellectual property enforcement
- Represented a large foreign consumer goods ecommerce company with extensive product base operating throughout the United States with the patent portfolio development as well as patent dispute resolution

Education

- University of Miami School of Law (J.D. *cum laude*)
- University of California, San Diego (B.S., Aerospace Engineering)

Languages

- Spanish

Professional Memberships & Activities

- Biocom California
 - Medical Device & Diagnostics Committee, Member

Representative Presentations & Publications

- "[Opinion: Think Beyond the Utility Patent to Protect Your Portfolio](#)," Co-Author, BioSpace (February 7, 2024)

Community Involvement

- San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program
 - Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinic, Attorney Volunteer

Previous Professional Experience

- Bookoff McAndrews, PLLC, Attorney (2021-2022)
- Troutman Pepper (previously Troutman Sanders), Attorney (2015-2021)
- Gordon & Rees (2012-2015)

Bar Admissions

- California
- United States Patent and Trademark Office

Court Admissions

- United States District Court, Central District of California
- United States District Court, Southern District of California

Client News

- Snell & Wilmer Advises Biotechnology Company Trawsfynydd Therapeutics, Inc. in Merger with Onconova Therapeutics, Inc.
- Snell & Wilmer Advises Technology-Focused Growth Equity Firm Blueprint Equity as it Leads \$8 Million Series A Funding of Sprocket Security
- Snell & Wilmer Advises Technology-Focused Growth Equity Firm Blueprint Equity as it Leads \$11 Million Series B Funding of KlariVis
- Snell & Wilmer Advises Specialty Mechanical Contracting Company A.O. Reed & Co. in Acquisition to Legence
- Snell & Wilmer Advises Hardtech Investment Firm Pangaea Ventures As It Leads Series A Funding Round of Bidel AG
- Snell & Wilmer Advises Hardtech Investment Firm Pangaea Ventures As It Leads Series A Funding Round of Compact Membrane Systems
- Snell & Wilmer Advises San Diego-Based Medical Device Company Octet Medical, Inc. As It Secures \$10M in Series B Financing
- Snell & Wilmer Advises Technology-Focused Growth Equity Firm Blueprint Equity as it Leads Series A Funding of Builder Prime