



John Cullis focuses his practice on intellectual property litigation, counseling and procurement. Over the course of his career, John has been recognized among his peers as a preeminent litigator in the field of intellectual property.

John is an accomplished trial lawyer who has first-chaired trademark, trade dress, trade secret, copyright and unfair competition matters before judges and juries in numerous U.S. federal courts and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. John is known for his ability to develop highly effective case strategies that lead to an early resolution for the client.

John's trial experience and strategic approach has led to him being sought out and engaged by several major brands to take over highly contentious cases that were destined for trial. In many instances, John was able to develop and execute an effective case strategy that was designed to resolve the case in the most cost-effective manner possible.

In addition, he routinely counsels clients on the clearance, registration, enforcement, licensing, acquisition, and disposition of IP rights. John prides himself on working collaboratively with each client and maintaining the highest level of professionalism in his enforcement efforts, as he recognizes that, as outside counsel, he is an ambassador for some of the world's most valuable brands.

Beyond IP matters, John leverages his dual Canadian-U.S. law licenses to advise many foreign-based clients on a wide range of U.S. legal issues, including U.S. acquisitions and dispositions, corporate formations, cross-border tax issues, insolvency and restructuring issues, licensing and transactional agreements, commercial real estate matters, and corporate and commercial disputes.

Professional and Community Involvement

Past President, Canada-U.S. Business Council Board of Directors

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EDUCATION

University of Windsor Faculty School of Law/University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law, (J.D.), editorial assistant of the Windsor Review of Legal and Social Issues, quarterfinalist in the G. Mennen Moot Court Competition, 2000

Huron College at University of Western Ontario, (B.A.), 1997

BAR ADMISSIONS

Illinois

Ontario

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Trial Bar

U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

LANGUAGES

English

PRACTICES

European Services

Intellectual Property

Member, International Trademark Association (INTA)

Member, INTA Parallel Imports Committee

Member, Chicago Bar Association

Honors

40 Under Forty, Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, 2011

World Trademark Review 1000, 2021-2023

Illinois Super Lawyers, 2013-2015, 2018-2024

The Best Lawyers in America, 2024