



R. KENT ROBERTS

Partner

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Kent's practice straddles the complex interplay of technology and commerce. He regularly advises technology companies on the protection and commercialization of intellectual property, particularly related to electrical, software, and mechanical technology. His work includes patent, trademark, and copyright prosecution, negotiation of software licenses and IP license agreements, infringement analysis related to patents, trademarks and copyrights, and providing advice regarding trade secrets. Companies in the medical, biometric, software, electrical, mechanical, electro-mechanical, and communications industries, among others, seek out Kent's advice and guidance on critical business decisions.

Before focusing on intellectual property law, Kent's practice was grounded in M&A, tax, trade secret protection, and employment agreements. Kent's clients benefit from this business law experience as well as his unique engineering education (separate degrees in mechanical engineering and electrical engineering) and experience. He spent years in industry as a process engineer and designs engineer providing analysis and technical support to optimize various oil refinery facilities.

Honors

- Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society
- Pi Tau Sigma International Mechanical Engineering Honor Society

Experience

Hodgson Russ closed a merger transaction on behalf of a long-time, NASDAQ-listed defense and aerospace products manufacturing client. As a result of the merger, the client became a wholly owned subsidiary in a deal valued at approximately \$275 million. The closing completed a four-month project in which attorneys from many of our practices contributed in significant ways under intense time pressures and opposite some of the largest firms in the country. Our work included advising our client's board in connection with its fiduciary duties; negotiating the merger

The Guaranty Building
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Practices & Industries

Canada-U.S. Cross-Border
Cybersecurity & Privacy
Design Protection & Design Patents
Freedom-to-Operate Analyses
Intellectual Property & Technology
Intellectual Property Litigation
Intellectual Property Portfolio Management
Patent Prosecution
Technology Licensing & Agreements
Trade Secrets & Non-Disclosure Agreements
Trademark & Domain Name Registration
Trademark Oppositions and Cancellations
Website Agreements, Cloud Computing & Social Media

Admissions

Connecticut
New York

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agreement; preparing a proxy statement for the special meeting of shareholders and dealings with the SEC and FINRA; defending the company and the board in two shareholder lawsuits alleging, among other things, breach of fiduciary duty by the board; appearing in federal and state court and ultimately settling the lawsuits; advising management on directors and officers insurance matters; advising the board and management on certain options and other benefit matters; handling HSR filings; and assisting on financing related to the transaction.

Hodgson Russ cultivated and prosecuted the intellectual property portfolio of a Western New York-based high-tech startup, which was later acquired by a Fortune 100 company.

In the News

Thought Leaders: Employees can help protect a company's intellectual property
Buffalo Business First, May 9, 2022

Hodgson Russ Announces New Partners
February 10, 2005

Publications

The Battle After *Warhol*: Tattoos as Artwork or Infringement?
Hodgson Russ Intellectual Property Litigation Alert, April 24, 2024

AI Lawsuit May Eclipse Claims of Fair Use
Hodgson Russ Intellectual Property Litigation Alert, April 5, 2024

Music Copyrights on a Roll – Read and Listen to Hear the Latest
Hodgson Russ Intellectual Property Litigation Alert, October 6, 2023

Federal Circuit Set to Rehear Case En Banc Impacting the Longstanding Test for Design Patent Obviousness
Hodgson Russ Design Protection & Design Patents Alert, August 9, 2023

Taco Bell Throws Its Hat in the Ring to Free “Taco Tuesday” from Trademark Protection
Hodgson Russ Intellectual Property Litigation Alert, May 30, 2023

Copyright Claims of Cosmetic Company Continue to Trial
Hodgson Russ Intellectual Property Litigation Alert, March 23, 2023

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Education

University of Washington, B.S.M.E.,
cum laude

University at Buffalo, B.S.E.E.,
magna cum laude

Cornell Law School, J.D.

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Luxury Fashion Designer Earns Its Stripes In Trademark Victory Against adidas
Hodgson Russ Intellectual Property Litigation Alert, January 27, 2023

Court Ruling Simplifies Service Upon Foreign Trademark Infringers
Hodgson Russ Intellectual Property Litigation Alert, December 20, 2022

Fortnite Crushes Choreographer's Copyright Claims
Hodgson Russ Intellectual Property Alert, November 28, 2022

Professional Sports Leagues Filing Lawsuits for Improper Use of Trademarks
Hodgson Russ Intellectual Property Litigation Alert , October 31, 2022

Presentations & Events

Trade Accelerator Program: Helping Companies Across Canada Take Their Business Global
World Trade Center Buffalo Niagara, Best Western St. Catharines Hotel & Conference Center, December 1, 2019

Cross-Border Trade: A Mid-Year Review
Hamilton, ON, June 5, 2013

Blog Posts

- Partner Objects to Volkswagen Class Action Settlement in Letter
Noonan's Notes Blog, May 16, 2017

Professional Affiliations

- Board member and past president, Cornell Club of Buffalo
- Senior past chairperson, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (Buffalo section)

Community & Pro Bono

- Former Executive board member, Boy Scouts of America Greater Niagara Frontier Council

