



Ruffin B. Cordell

Principal

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Overview

For more than three decades, Ruffin Cordell has been lead counsel representing the world's most prominent brands in multibillion-dollar, high-stakes, high-risk patent and trade secret litigation worldwide.

Ruffin has handled more than 70 cases at the ITC, many involving multijurisdictional disputes in U.S. District Courts. He has served as lead counsel in more than three dozen trials, including jury trials in the Northern District of California, Delaware, and the Eastern District of Texas, and has argued more than two dozen appeals at the Federal Circuit.

He excels in taking on the most complicated, bet-the-company cases. Over the course of his impressive career, Ruffin has prevailed in highly publicized and hotly contested patent licensing disputes, infringement cases, and trade secret misappropriation cases, averting billions in damages for clients, fiercely protecting their intellectual property and their market share, and shaping patent law in the process.

Very few lawyers are as agile and experienced in navigating the complexities of patent and trade secret litigation as Ruffin. His career highlights include:

- Representing a Fortune 50 consumer electronics manufacturer as lead counsel in its worldwide, multi-billion dollar dispute with Qualcomm.
- Obtaining a limited exclusion order and cease and desist order at the ITC for client Samsung. This gave Samsung a powerful marketplace advantage and negotiation advantage in its global dispute with Sharp Electronics. He also represented Samsung adverse to Ericsson in a series of highly publicized and hotly contested patent licensing disputes involving 24 mobile device patents in the Eastern District of Texas and at the ITC.
- Averting a \$1 billion in damages claim against client Marvell Semiconductor by obtaining a verdict of no infringement in the Eastern District of Texas.
- Influencing the creation of new law regarding the use of prospective royalties in patent cases – while also securing a significant jury verdict for an automotive manufacturing client in an Eastern District of Texas case involving hybrid vehicle technology.

In 2012, Ruffin was elected a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in recognition of his exceptional career and remarkable success in the courtroom.

Prior to joining Fish & Richardson, Ruffin served as a patent examiner in computer interface device technology at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Experience

IP litigation

Represented a Fortune 50 consumer electronics manufacturer as lead counsel in its worldwide, multi-billion dollar dispute with Qualcomm.

SEVEN Networks v. Samsung (E.D. Tex.). Lead counsel for Samsung in case alleging infringement of seven patents by Samsung mobile phones and tablets. Secured favorable settlement after pretrial hearings.

Lake Cherokee Hard Drive Techs. v. Marvell Semiconductor, Inc. (E.D. Tex.). Trial counsel for Marvell in a memory storage case in which the plaintiff sought more than \$1 billion in damages. Obtained jury verdict of noninfringement.

Ericsson Inc., et al. v. Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., et al. (E.D. Tex.). Represented Samsung in a series of hotly contested and highly publicized patent and licensing disputes in the Eastern District of Texas and the ITC. The cases involved 24 patents covering software and hardware for mobile devices, including phones and tablets.

PAICE v. Toyota Motor Co. (E.D. Tex.). Obtained a significant jury verdict in favor of his client against Toyota. In the process, created new law regarding the use of prospective royalties in patent cases. Mr. Cordell also tried later cases for the same client against Hyundai Motors and Ford Motor Co.

Virtual Solutions LLC v. Microsoft Corp. (S.D.N.Y. & Fed. Cir.). Obtained favorable summary judgment ruling on behalf of client Microsoft and subsequent affirmance on appeal to the Federal Circuit.

Intergraph Corp. v. Intel Corp. (E.D. Tex.). Trial counsel in bench trial on two Intergraph patents relating to parallel processing.

01 Communique Laboratory Inc. v. Citrix Systems Inc. et al. (N.D. Ohio). Won a significant jury verdict of noninfringement for client Citrix Systems in patent case alleging inducement.

International Trade Commission, Section 337 investigations

Certain Robotic Vacuum Cleaning Devices and Components Thereof Such as Spare Parts (Inv. No. 337-TA-1057). Represented complainant in an investigation relating to robotic vacuum cleaners, autonomous behavior, and embedded systems processing. Succeeded in obtaining limited exclusion order and cease and desist orders.

Certain Hybrid Electric Vehicles and Components Thereof (Inv. No. 337-TA-1042). Represented complainant and secured favorable settlement prior to the initial determination.

Certain Liquid Crystal Display Devices and Products Containing the Same (Inv. No. 337-TA-631, -634). Represented Samsung in the ITC portion of this global dispute that resulted in actions filed in Japan, Korea, Europe, and the United States. Obtained a limited exclusion order and cease and desist order against Sharp before successfully settling the case, which provided valuable leverage for future negotiations.

Certain Unified Communications Systems, Products and Components Thereof (Inv. No. 377-TA-598). Represented Microsoft in patent litigation against Alcatel-Lucent. The Administrative Law Judge found infringement and no invalidity of one of the asserted patents and recommended an exclusion order.

Certain Flash Memory Devices and Components Thereof, and Products Containing Such Devices and Components (Inv. No. 337-TA-552). Lead counsel for respondent in case involving three patents related to flash memory technology, securing a finding of no violation after full hearing on the merits (affirmed by the full Commission).

Recognitions & awards

Best Lawyers in America

Best Lawyers 2006-2025

Ranked Lawyer

Chambers Global 2020-2025

Washington, D.C. Lawyer of the Year for Patent Litigation

Best Lawyers 2024

Stand-out Lawyer

Thomson Reuters 2023-2024

Washington, D.C. Super Lawyer

Super Lawyers 2008-2024

Ranked Lawyer

Chambers USA: Washington, D.C. 2013-2024

Ranked Lawyer

Chambers USA: Nationwide 2012-2024

IAM Patent 1000

IAM 2012, 2016-2024

IP Star

Managing IP 2013-2024

DC and National Litigation Stars

Benchmark Litigation 2013-2015

IAM 250

IAM 2011

Top 3000 Leading Lawyers

Lawdragon 2010

Leading Lawyer in America

Law Dragon 2010

Top 50 Under 45

IP Law & Business 2008

Leading Intellectual Property Lawyers in D.C.

Legal Times 2003

Fellow

American College of Trial Lawyers

Testimonials

Ruffin Cordell is “extremely good on his feet and a top IP trial lawyer.”

“He is hard working, engaging and articulate, and fantastic at managing the strategic aspects of his cases.”

“Ruffin has a high level of seniority and experience and manages big cases brilliantly. His performances in court are always great – he’s extremely sharp thinking on his feet and has a folksy, unpretentious style that goes down well.”

—2018-2019 *IAM Patent 1000*

"He's strategic; he has a way of thinking about litigation as a whole, and presenting things in a very straightforward manner."

"Ruffin brings a tremendous amount of experience in large multi-patent litigations. He has a great line of trial experience and a great reputation."

"Ruffin is an extremely talented trial lawyer."

"Ruffin is a three-in-one person, he does it all."

—Client testimonials, 2017-2019 *Chambers and Partners*

Professional associations

Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers

Insights

Q&A | April 21, 2016

Law360 Trial Pros: Fish & Richardson's Ruffin Cordell

News

News | February 13, 2025

Fish & Richardson Achieves "Band 1" Rankings in the U.S. for IP and ITC Practices in Chambers Global 2025

News | January 30, 2025

Fish & Richardson Defeats Multi-Billion Dollar Demand at EDTX Jury Trial

Media Coverage | January 24, 2025

Fish & Richardson Trial Team Named *Law360*'s 'Legal Lions of the Week' for \$1.95 Billion Patent Case

Law360

News | October 4, 2024

Fish & Richardson Ranked Highly by *Managing IP*, Attorneys Named IP Stars

News | August 15, 2024

101 Fish Attorneys Included in the 2025 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*

News | June 11, 2024

Fish & Richardson Receives Top Rankings in 2024 Edition of *IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals*

News | June 10, 2024

Fish & Richardson Earns "Band 1" Nationwide Rankings for Intellectual Property and ITC Practices in *Chambers USA 2024*

News | October 5, 2023

Fish & Richardson Ranked Highly by *Managing IP*, Attorneys Named IP Stars

News | September 11, 2023

Fish & Richardson Secures Appellate Win for Bumble Involving Rare Legal Doctrine

News | August 17, 2023

101 Fish Attorneys Included in the 2024 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*

News | June 27, 2023

Fish & Richardson Receives Top Rankings in 2023 Edition of *IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals*

News | June 1, 2023

Fish & Richardson Earns "Band 1" Nationwide Rankings for Intellectual Property and ITC Practices in *Chambers USA 2023*

News | April 28, 2023

Fish & Richardson Recognized by *Managing IP* as Patent Disputes (West) Firm of the Year

News | March 1, 2023

Fish & Richardson Earns "Band 1" Rankings in the U.S. for Intellectual Property and ITC Practices in Chambers Global 2023

News | January 30, 2023

Fish & Richardson Wins \$43 Million Jury Verdict for the Chamberlain Group

News | September 8, 2022

Fish & Richardson Receives Top Rankings in 2022 Edition of *IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals*

News | August 22, 2022

96 Fish Attorneys Included in the 2023 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*

News | July 13, 2022

ITC Affirms Favorable Outcome for Fish & Richardson Client Quectel

News | June 3, 2022

Fish & Richardson Earns "Band 1" Nationwide Rankings for Intellectual Property and ITC Practices in *Chambers USA 2022*

News | June 2, 2022

Fish & Richardson Named a Top ITC and Life Sciences Firm by *Managing IP*; Attorneys Named IP Stars

News | April 20, 2022

Fish & Richardson Obtains Favorable Initial Determination at ITC for Client Quectel

News | August 31, 2021

Fish & Richardson Secures Precedential Damages Win for Micron Technology in Federal Circuit Appeal

News | August 19, 2021

Fish Attorneys Recognized in 2022 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*

News | July 7, 2021

Fish & Richardson Receives Top Rankings in 2021 Edition of *IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals*

News | May 26, 2021

Fish & Richardson Ranks in Top "Band 1" Nationwide Rankings for Intellectual Property and ITC Practices in *Chambers USA 2021*

Events

October 24, 2024

EDTX Bench Bar Conference 2024

October 14, 2021

Eastern District of Texas - EDTX Bench Bar Conference

May 27, 2015

IPO Damages & Injunctions Committee Conference "Patent Damages Law: Are Changes Needed?"

March 19, 2010

TJSTEL Annual Spring Symposium: The Greening of Intellectual Property

March 19, 2010

Temple Journal of Science, Technology, and Environmental Law's "The Greening of Intellectual Property"

November 10, 2008

Practising Law Institute's Patent Litigation 2008

Additional insights

Publications

- "Section 337 Patent Investigation Management Guide," *UC Berkeley Public Law Research Paper No. 1603330* (May 2010)

Speaking engagement

- "Shootout at the Eastern District of Texas Corral, Mock Clopenings," *EDTX Bench Bar Conference* (October 27, 2022)
 - "The Hindsight Track: What Seasoned Lawyers Will Share with Young Lawyers and Old Alike about Career Missteps and Lucky

- Breaks," *Eastern District of Texas – EDTX Bench Bar Conference*(October 14, 2021)

Media mention

- "[Fish & Richardson Cashes in as Big Tech's Go-To Trial Law Firm](#)," Bloomberg Law (April 27, 2023)
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Services

Litigation

Patent Litigation

Trade Secret Litigation

Appellate

Industries

Electrical & Computer Technology

Software & Internet

Telecommunications

Energy & Chemicals

Petrochemical

Admissions

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (1989)

Texas (1989)

Virginia (1993)

District of Columbia (1995)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Education

J.D. *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif, Georgetown University Law Center (1989)

B.S. *Tau Beta Pi*, Electrical Engineering, Louisiana State University (1985)
