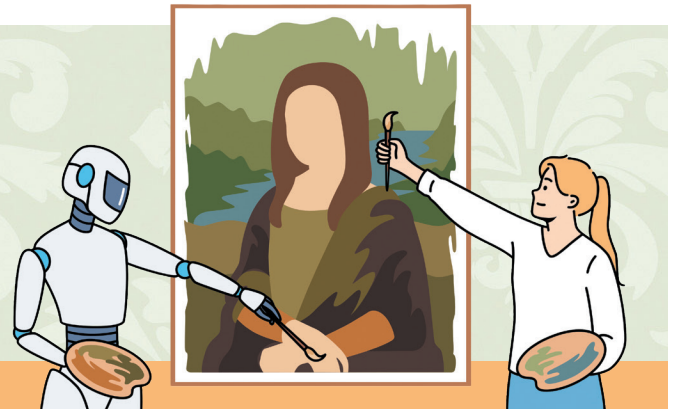


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TOP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWYERS 2026

HONORING TOP ATTORNEYS WORKING IN PATENT, TRADEMARK AND COPYRIGHT LAW



KAREN BOYD

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SILICON VALLEY

Karen Boyd came to intellectual property law by accident. She was completing a PhD in molecular biology at the time, growing restless with academic science, when a high school friend asked her to take the LSAT for moral support.

"She signed me up and I drove from L.A. to Berkeley for the weekend so I could sit next to her for the test," Boyd said. She got her scores, tracked down a patent lawyer in the phone book, and never looked back. Thirty years later, she is a founding partner at Turner Boyd & Seraphine LLP, which merged with Thompson Hine LLP earlier this year, and one of the more sought-after IP litigators in the Bay Area.

Her technical background in molecular biology informs her approach to life sciences matters, but practicing in Silicon Valley has made her equally fluent in technology disputes. A current representation captures both sides of her practice: Boyd is defending Bruker Cellular Analysis, a digital cell biology company whose products allow customers to rapidly screen and identify the best cells for biotherapeutic purposes, in a patent case brought by AbCellera Biologics asserting 15 patents. *AbCellera Biologics Inc. et al v. Bruker Cellular Analysis, Inc.*, 4:20-cv-08624 (N.D. Cal., filed Dec. 7, 2020).

The case, filed in Delaware, was an early opportunity to demonstrate her preference for procedural strategy over brute-force litigation. Boyd argued a successful motion to transfer the matter to Bruker's home district in California, where local patent rules gave her team a sharper tool.

"This venue allowed us to use our local patent rules to radically limit the scope of the case early and procedurally, rather than having to wait for summary judgment," Boyd said. Her team also developed the damages strategy and laid the groundwork for a motion to exclude the bulk of AbCellera's damages claim. Given the scale of the initial demand, the eventual settlement represented a significant result for Bruker.

On the technology side, Boyd serves as lead counsel for ASUSTeK — the world's fifth-largest PC vendor by unit sales — in a case against patent assertion entity

USTA Technology, which is attempting to read its patent on WiFi standards in an enforcement campaign targeting computer, cellphone, and router manufacturers as well as internet providers. ASUSTeK has been a client since Turner Boyd's founding, and Boyd has represented the company across 71 matters since 2008. The depth of that relationship, combined with her decades of experience defending against non-practicing entities and her fluency in WiFi standards, now drives the claim construction and invalidity work at the center of the case.

Across her most complex representations, Boyd returns to a consistent theme: using procedural mechanisms to compress a case's scope before it becomes unmanageable.

"Whittling them down using a variety of procedural mechanisms over the life of the case" is, she says, a through-line in her most complicated matters — whether the challenge is the number of patents in play, tangled trade secret claims, or the asymmetries that define disputes with non-practicing entities.

Boyd's feel for that compression came early. A case she worked on as a third-year associate — a patent dispute over video streaming technology tried to verdict in 10 weeks — gave her a full view of litigation from complaint to jury before most associates had seen a deposition. It remains, she says, the model she would replicate for every young lawyer if she could.