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TOP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWYERS 2026

HONORING TOP ATTORNEYS WORKING IN PATENT, TRADEMARK AND COPYRIGHT LAW



KEELEY I. VEGA

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Keeley Vega's path to patent litigation began not in a law library, but in a bioengineering lab. As a junior at UC San Diego, she was working on a cartilage regeneration project when her attention shifted from the science itself to the question of how to protect it. She took the Patent Bar immediately after graduation, went straight to law school and has spent the eighteen years since building a practice at the intersection of cutting-edge technology and high-stakes litigation.

Vega's caseload reflects both the breadth and the depth of that practice. She recently played a central role defending Bruker

Cellular Analysis against a fifteen-patent assertion brought by AbCellera and the University of British Columbia. *AbCellera Biologics Inc. et al v. Bruker Cellular Analysis, Inc.*, 4:20-cv-08624 (N.D. Cal., filed Dec. 7, 2020).

"Bruker Cellular's products allow customers to rapidly screen large numbers of cells, identifying the best cells for biotherapeutic purposes, including discovering therapeutic antibodies," Vega said. The plaintiffs claimed direct competition and that their technology made COVID vaccines possible. Vega co-authored successful motions to transfer the case to the Northern District of California and then to stay district court proceedings pending inter partes review. "Bruker's ultimate settlement — at a small fraction of the demand — was a huge win for our client," she said.

One of the pressures in that case came from the Northern District's early damages disclosure requirements, which forced the defense to take a position before full discovery was complete. Vega's team met that challenge by drawing on third-party information and the plaintiffs' own evidence to systematically dismantle the damages demand — an approach that shaped the trajectory of the litigation.

She also represents Vincent Systems GmbH, a German medical device company, in

enforcing its patent on mechanical technology used in prosthetic hands. The technology enables individually-moving fingers in prostheses, including smaller versions designed to fit women and children. Vega's recent work on the matter has included defending the deposition of her client's technical expert and taking the opposing expert's deposition. *Vincent Systems GmbH v. Ossur Americas Inc.*, 8:19-cv-02157 (C.D. Cal., filed Nov. 8, 2019).

Among the cases Vega considers most significant is her representation of a health care analytics company sued for patent infringement. Her team worked through pleadings, discovery, and motion practice to invalidate the asserted patent — a result the Federal Circuit affirmed, along with a fee award. "It was a long haul, with important technology and wonderful scientists, making the win that much better."

Vega also credits partner Karen Boyd as a long-standing influence on her career. The two first met when Vega was a 1L summer associate at Fish & Richardson in 2006, and Boyd has remained a constant presence since. "What truly sets Karen apart is her deep understanding of the challenges women face in balancing a demanding litigation career with a fulfilling personal life," Vega said.