

Speaker Biography

James Toupin

James Toupin was born in San Francisco, California. He received his A.B. degree with distinction from Stanford University in 1973, and his J.D. degree from the Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California at Berkeley, in 1977, where he was an editor of the law review. He is a member of the California and District of Columbia Bars.

Mr. Toupin began his professional career at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C., specializing in intellectual property and unfair competition law and administrative agency litigation. In 1985-1987, he worked for the Washington office of the California law firm of Memel, Jacobs, Pierno, Gersh and Ellsworth, where he concentrated on international trademark registration and licensing.

In 1987, he was appointed Assistant General Counsel for Litigation of the United States International Trade Commission and subsequently to Deputy General Counsel. In those positions, he supervised defense of the Commission's actions in U.S. courts and international tribunals. The domestic court representation included defense of the Commission's determinations on patent and other intellectual property matters in the Federal Circuit and of the Commission's determinations in antidumping and countervailing duty investigations in the U.S. Court of International Trade and the Federal Circuit.

Mr. Toupin also assisted in the negotiations leading to the adoption of dispute settlement mechanisms in the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization Agreements, as well as in representation of the United States in proceedings in those fora. He has been a member of the Advisory Committee of the Court of International Trade, as well as of the judicial conference organizing committees of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Mr. Toupin became General Counsel of the United States Patent and Trademark Office in January 2001.

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Mr. Toupin became General Counsel of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in January 2001. He has executive responsibility for the USPTO Office of the Solicitor, Office of General Law, Office of Enrollment and Discipline, Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, and Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.