STITES & HARBISON PLLC



Michael S. Hargis

Title: Member

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Michael Hargis is a registered patent and trademark attorney and member of the Intellectual Property and Technology Group. He has over 25 years of experience representing clients in all areas of intellectual property including drafting and prosecuting domestic and foreign patent applications in a wide array of technologies including packaging machines and medical devices.

Michael's practice has recently focused on counseling clients on the clearance, acquisition, and registration of trademarks and copyrights both domestically and internationally, and enforcement of those rights when required. Enforcement efforts include proactive searching, marketplace and social media monitoring, and watch services, and reactive demand letters, take-down requests, marketplace and platform enforcement, UDRP actions against abusive domain name registrations, inter partes proceedings (e.g., oppositions and cancellations) before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and trademark and copyright infringement litigation.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Intellectual Property & Technology
- Patent Prosecution & Protection
- Trademarks
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- Licensing

RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Serves as outside counsel for a large university protecting and enforcing its trademark rights in support of its highly successful licensing program.
- Counseled individuals in developing and pursuing patent and trademark protection for start-up businesses.
- Prepared and prosecuted patent applications in a wide variety of technologies including medical devices, machines, audio speakers, electronics, automotive, and HVAC.
- Successfully opposed registration of a competitor's mark through an opposition proceeding conducted by the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Kentucky
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky
- United States Patent and Trademark Office

RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Trademark Modernization Act Provides Useful tools for Brand Owners of All Sizes
  Business Lexington, September 29, 2021
- Stites & Harbison adds four IP attorneys
  by Haley Cawthon, *KYINNO*, September 27, 2021 *,with Trevor T. Graves, Warren D. Schickli and Patrick M. Torre*
- Stites & Harbison Adds Four IP Attorneys in Kentucky
  by Adrian Cruz, *Law360*, July 19, 2021 *,with Trevor T. Graves, Warren D. Schickli and Patrick M. Torre*
- Intellectual property attorneys join Stites & Harbison
  by staff reporter, *The Lane Report*, July 15, 2021 *,with Trevor T. Graves, Warren D. Schickli and Patrick M. Torre*

FIRM LEADERSHIP

- Lexington Office Recruiting Committee, Member

MEMBERSHIPS

- Fayette County Bar Association
- Kentucky Bar Association,
  - IP Law Section, Member
- American Bar Association,
  - Health Law Section
- American Intellectual Property Law Association

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Southland Church, Member

EDUCATION

- Saint Louis University School of Law J.D., 1996
- University of Kentucky B.S., Electrical Engineering 1989

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Prior to joining Stites & Harbison, Michael was a partner with King & Schickli, PLLC, a Lexington, Kentucky intellectual property boutique. Prior to law school, Michael worked as a senior engineer with McDonnell Douglas Corporation (now Boeing, Inc.), a defense contractor, designing avionics and electronic test equipment for the F-15 and F-18 aircraft. Throughout his time in Lexington, Michael has been actively involved in the soccer community serving on boards with the I AM 3rd recreational soccer league and Commonwealth Soccer club and in other roles with Lexington FC and Lexington Christian Academy teams, and coaching numerous recreational teams.

ACCOLADES

- *Managing Intellectual Property*, IP Stars (2021-26)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Trademark Law (2026-27)

- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*® (2021-26)