



Nicole M. DeAbrantes

ASSOCIATE

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OVERVIEW

Nicole DeAbrantes (“Nikki”) provides support to clients worldwide, including the United States, the European Union, and Japan. These clients operate in several different industries, including biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, video streaming, farm equipment, and light emitting technology.

Nikki provides vital support to attorneys advocating for clients engaged in litigation, both in court and in disputes that are being addressed and resolved in other forums. Litigation is a classic manifestation of the iceberg principle, in which what’s visible is only a portion of what’s going on. For every document that’s filed, or argument that’s made in a case, there is an enormous amount of often-unseen research, drafting, revision, and other work that makes it possible. Arguments don’t make themselves, and Nikki’s role is to execute the essential, foundational legal work necessary to construct them.

In the case of trials, Nikki is involved in drafting pleadings, motion practice (particularly research, drafting, and strategy), review of expert reports, and Daubert motions. She also assists in the preparation, promulgation, and defense of depositions, as well as assisting clients and employees in preparing to be deposed. For witnesses, a deposition is usually a harrowing experience. By preparing them for both the procedure, and the topics at issue, Nikki helps make a difficult process a little easier and the outcome better.

Practices

Appellate Litigation

Due Diligence

Ex Parte Reexaminations

False Advertising and Unfair Competition Litigation

FDA Regulatory

Hatch-Waxman Litigation

Inter Partes Review (IPR) and Post Grant Review (PGR)

Litigation

Opinions, Freedom to Operate, and Patentability Analysis

Patent Litigation

Patent Prosecution

Patent Strategy and Counseling

Trade Secret Litigation

Trademark Oppositions and Cancellations

Education

J.D., The George Washington University Law School

She also assists clients in preparation for proceedings before the Patent and Trademark Appeal Board (PTAB), particularly *inter partes* reviews. With respect to these, she helps research and draft petitions, expert reports, and patent owner responses. Finally, Nikki assists clients with projects and research, and examination of the technological landscape for competitive or similar products, and in so doing, helps develop overall strategy.

As a practitioner, Nikki is particularly effective at communicating and working with clients. Patent law is a highly specialized, sometimes to the point of being arcane, field of law. The ability to distill complex procedural and evidentiary requirements into terms clients can understand and work with is invaluable, as is mastery of the endless details of the legal process, the technology at issue, and most importantly, the ways in which they intersect. Because Nikki has exceptionally strong interpersonal skills, and is capable of explaining and working with very complex technological or procedural topics her audience can grasp and interpret, complexity is not an issue. This skill extends to writing - Nikki is a clear, forceful, and effective writer, whether the document is a brief, an internal memo, or a formal pleading.

Detailed and very organized, a skilled communicator, and a gifted researcher, Nikki is an essential part of the Rothwell Figg legal team, and someone whose work is frequently a pivotal factor in the team's success.

HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers "Rising Star" (2023)

B.S., Biology (minors in Psychology and Political Science), Old Dominion University (*magna cum laude*)

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Virginia

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia