bodman

Susan M. Kornfield

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Ms. Kornfield focuses her practice on high-profile, sophisticated transactions and litigation in the patent, trademark, copyright, industrial design rights, trade secret, unfair competition, and technology-related spheres. Her clients include organizations in the financial services, health care/medical, automotive, sports and entertainment, higher education, and technology industries, as well as cultural institutions and nonprofit foundations.

She has been selected as an expert witness, mediator, and arbitrator in intellectual property disputes. She serves on an Advisory Committee to Stanford University on matters involving libraries and academic information resources, and lectures at universities, legal conferences, and business workshops on IP issues. Ms. Kornfield has authored several articles about intellectual property law.

Ms. Kornfield is a member of numerous national, state, and local bar associations and committees relating to computer law, intellectual property law, and entertainment law.

Ms. Kornfield is the former long-time Chair of Bodman's Intellectual Property Practice Group. She served for many years as Co-Chair of the Firm's Pro Bono Committee and as a member of the Executive Committee.

practices & industries

Workplace Law

Intellectual Property

Emerging Companies and Venture Capital

education

Indiana University Maurer School of Law (Bloomington), J.D., with *honors*

University of Michigan, B.A.

admissions

Illinois

Michigan

court admissions

U.S. Supreme Ct.

U.S. Ct. of Appeals, 2d Cir.

U.S. Ct. of Appeals, 7th Cir.

U.S. Ct. of Appeals, 6th Cir.

She is the recipient of two of the State Bar of Michigan's most prestigious awards, the 2014 John W. Cummiskey Pro Bono Award for significant pro bono contributions and the 2017 Intellectual Property Section Excellence in IP Award for leadership and achievement in the field of IP Law.

Click this icon to access Ms. Kornfield's articles on JDSupra:
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HONORS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION

- Chambers USA, 2016, 2018, 2021, 2026, Intellectual Property
- Managing Intellectual Property "Trademark Star" and "Copyright Star" 2025
- Michigan Lawyer "Go-To Lawyer," Intellectual Property 2022
- Crain's Detroit "Notable Women in Law," 2021
- State Bar of Michigan Intellectual Property Section "Excellence in Intellectual Property" Award, 2017
- The Best Lawyers in America©, 2008 - 2027, Litigation-Intellectual Property, Litigation-Patent, Technology Law, Trademark Law
- Michigan Super Lawyers, Intellectual Property, 2016 - 2026
- Michigan Super Lawyers, Top 100 Attorneys 2020
- Michigan Super Lawyers, Top 25 Women Business Attorneys, 2017
- Michigan Super Lawyers, Top 50 Women Attorneys, 2012 - 2021
- The Best Lawyers in America©, 2024 Ann Arbor "Lawyer of the Year," Trademark
- The Best Lawyers in America©, 2021 Ann Arbor "Lawyer of the Year," Litigation – Intellectual Property
- The Best Lawyers in America©, 2019 Ann Arbor "Lawyer of the Year," Trademark
- The Best Lawyers in America©, 2018 Ann Arbor "Lawyer of the Year," Copyright
- The Best Lawyers in America©, 2017 Ann Arbor "Lawyer of the Year," Trademark
- The Best Lawyers in America©, 2016 Ann Arbor "Lawyer of the Year," Copyright
- The Best Lawyers in America©, 2015 Ann Arbor "Lawyer of the Year," Litigation-Patent
- The Best Lawyers in America©, 2014 Ann Arbor "Lawyer of the Year," Litigation – Intellectual Property

- The Best Lawyers® 2013 American Lawyer of the Year," Copyright
- D Business Magazine "Top Lawyers" 2009, 2011-2026, Copyright Law
- D Business Magazine "Top Lawyers" 2027, Intellectual Property and Patent Law
- Managing Intellectual Property, "Top 250 Women in IP," 2013, 2016
- State Bar of Michigan, John W. Cummiskey Pro Bono Award, 2014
- Michigan Lawyers Weekly, "Women in the Law," 2010
- Martindale-Hubbell® AV Preeminent Peer Rated for Highest Level of Professional Excellence; Endorsed for High Ethical Standing

CIVIC, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- University of Michigan College of Engineering, Center for Entrepreneurship, Emeritus Advisory Board Member
- Stanford University, Stanford Libraries Advisory Council, Member

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- State Bar of Michigan
  - Animal Law, Information Technology Law, and Intellectual Property Law Sections
- Washtenaw County Bar Association

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "Who Owns Knowledge?" Bodman Intellectual Property Law Update (July 28, 2023)
- Co-author, "First-of-Its-Kind Lawsuit Pitting Claims of Artistic Expression Involving NFTs Against Trademark Rights Should Have All Mark Owners Considering New Trademark Applications," Bodman Intellectual Property Law Update (February 15, 2023)
- Author, "Tom Petty Should Be Ashamed of Himself: Lessons from Those Who Learned the Hard Way," Res Ipsa, the Loquitor Washtenaw County Bar Association Newsletter, September/October 2015, vol. 45, no. 5, p. 10.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "Interpretation of of NFT & Digital Rights," panelist, Licensing International NFT and Digital Collectibles Summit, April 27, 2021
- "The Illuminated Mural and 'Welcome to the D': Michigan Reflects the National Battles Over Copyright and Trademark Claims," presenter, Michigan Intellectual Property Law Association, March 8, 2016

- “When Can Anonymous Internet Posters Be Identified and Held Liable?,” panelist, Washtenaw County Bar Association, February 26, 2016
- “Handling the Most Common Intellectual Property Issues,” presenter, First Annual Entrepreneurial Law Institute, Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), May 28, 2015
- "What You Missed in the Rest of the IP World When You Were Stressing Out over AIA," presenter, Michigan Intellectual Property Law Association, April 16, 2013
- “Basic Intellectual Property,” presenter, Business Boot Camp II, State Bar of Michigan, November 8, 2011

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- University of Michigan Law School, Adjunct Professor, Intellectual Property
- University of Michigan Ross School of Business, Former Adjunct Professor, Law of Advertising

PRO BONO

- State Bar of Michigan 2026 A Lawyer Helps Pro Bono Honor Roll
- Established a walk-in clinic at Detroit’s Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Saints Peter & Paul Warming Center
- Assisted with Street Outreach Court Detroit, a 36th Judicial District Court program that assists homeless people