

## Former Barnes & Noble IP Director Jumps To Stris & Maher

By **Shane Danaher**

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The former director of intellectual property for Barnes & Noble Inc. has joined the Los Angeles-based law firm Stris & Maher LLP, the firm said Tuesday.

Elizabeth Brannen joins Stris & Maher after three years at Barnes & Noble and, prior to that, two years as corporate counsel for Oracle Corp. She will serve as chair of Stris & Maher's intellectual property litigation practice.

"I had been at Barnes & Noble for three years and really enjoyed my time there," Brannen said in an interview Wednesday. "I basically committed to taking what I learned on the client side, and then providing successful and cost-effective representation at a law firm."



Elizabeth Brannen

Brannen has worked on intellectual property and commercial litigation issues throughout her career, both within major corporations and outside of them. While at Oracle, she helped navigate the tortuous litigation surrounding the company's copyright claims to Java software. At Barnes & Noble, she contributed to the fight against so-called patent trolls, co-authoring a 2013 comment to the Federal Trade Commission that outlined means to address the challenges posed by non-practicing entities.

"I'm very deeply committed to the idea that reform in the patent system is needed," Brannen said. "Companies are facing a toll from baseless patent litigation, and I hope that comment describes the magnitude of the problem."

Brannen began her career in intellectual property law in 2001 as a clerk for Judge Arthur Gajarsa of the Federal Circuit. After her tenure with the Federal Circuit, she joined Fish & Richardson PC as an associate, transferring in 2004 to Willenken Wilson Loh & Delgado LLP.

Following Willenken, Brannen undertook another position with a major law firm, this time Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP. She then moved to Oracle in 2010, Barnes & Noble in 2012, and finally Stris & Maher earlier this month.

"I'm really excited about being at a boutique," Brannen said. "Because we don't have the overhead that you might have at a larger firm I think it's going to be a really good platform. With larger platforms it can sometimes be more challenging to provide value in a way that doesn't drive up the cost."

Brannen earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1997 and her law degree from Harvard Law School in 2000.

--Editing by Jeremy Barker.

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