

MANAGING PARTNER

# ELIZABETH BRANNEN

Harvard, J.D. (2000)

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Elizabeth Brannen is the Managing Partner of Stris & Maher. She is also a first-chair trial lawyer who represents select clients in high-stakes business disputes.

Under Elizabeth's leadership, Stris & Maher has achieved widespread recognition as one of the nation's preeminent litigation boutiques. During her tenure, for example, *The American Lawyer* has twice named the firm a National Boutique of the Year Finalist (2019, 2022), an annual honor given to just seven firms "at the core of industry-changing matters, leading the charge on their clients' most important cases and operating at a level that sets them apart from their peers."

In addition to serving as the firm's chief executive, Elizabeth maintains an active litigation practice representing clients in significant intellectual property and other complex business disputes.

## Natural communicator

Before ever setting foot in a courtroom, Elizabeth was already a proven advocate. In high school, she was the national Lincoln-Douglas debate champion. And in college, she became the second woman ever to win the national championship of the American Parliamentary Debate Association—an organization that has produced some of the country's most influential lawyers



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and politicians.

Elizabeth learned early that honest, respectful, and authentic communication has the power to persuade any audience. That lesson informs her approach to litigation, negotiation, and leadership.

Widely respected for her soft skills both in and out of the courtroom, Elizabeth has the rare ability to convert skeptics and neutralize conflict in almost any contentious professional setting.

## Veteran IP litigator

Before joining Stris & Maher in 2015, Elizabeth served as the Director of Intellectual Property at Barnes & Noble, as Corporate Counsel in Oracle's litigation group, and as a patent litigator at a leading global IP firm.

Elizabeth now leads the firm's patent litigation practice. Her work is national in scope, with recent cases ranging from district courts in California and Utah to Virginia and New York. She has achieved significant victories for global technology leaders and personally preserved them on appeal, including before the Federal Circuit where she began her career two decades ago as a clerk to the Honorable Arthur J. Gajarsa.

Elizabeth is also an expert in copyright, Lanham Act, and trade secret litigation. She served as the primary substantive authority for the firm's recent copyright cases before the U.S. Supreme Court (*Fourth Estate v. Wall-Street.com*, 139 S. Ct. 881 (2019) and *Unicolors v. H&M*, 142 S. Ct. 941 (2022)) and its recent Lanham Act trial, defeating a \$180 million false advertising claim and earning [Top 20 Defense Verdict](#) recognition from *Daily Journal*.



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## Devoted mentor

Elizabeth is passionate in her support for diversity, equity, and inclusion within the legal community. She is a member of the [Leadership Council on Legal Diversity](#), an organization of approximately 400 corporate chief legal officers and law firm managing partners committed to creating a truly diverse legal profession. As a “Leader at the Front,” she has made a [public pledge](#) to take specific and meaningful action to support diversity.

## Education

Ms. Brannen received her J.D. from Harvard Law School, with honors, and her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, *magna cum laude*.

## Associations

### Active Memberships

**Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD), “Leader at the Front” and member**

**Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association (LAIPLA), board member**

**Burford Equity Project, 1 of 27 “Champions”**

## Speaking Engagements

Elizabeth regularly speaks about intellectual property law, courtroom presentation, diversity and inclusion, and her approach to leadership as the





firm's Managing Partner. Her recent appearances include:

- **Speaker, "Pushing for a Diverse Future in Intellectual Property,"** Burford Capital (September 2022)
- **Speaker, "Best Practices for Virtual Lawyering,"** National Association of Women Lawyers (May 2022)
- **Event Chair and Moderator, "Judge's Night Gala,"** Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association (March 2022)
- **Speaker, "Embracing GENgagement to Win The DEI Challenge,"** New York State Bar Association (July 2021)
- **Panelist, "Remote Case Management of IP Proceedings,"** The Sedona Conference (June 2021)
- **Guest Speaker,** The Managing Partners Podcast (April 2021)
- **Panelist, "Google v. Oracle Preview,"** Chi-Kent Supreme Court IP Review (October 2020)
- **Guest Speaker, "Global IP Updates,"** Targem Translations (June 2020)
- **Panelist, "Damages Presentation,"** SAS Institute Forum on NPE Litigation (September 2019)
- **Panelist, "Developments in IP Law,"** Chambers Forum: New York (June 2019)

## Publications

Elizabeth is a thought leader who is regularly asked to comment on various timely issues. Some recent publications include:

- **Dark Horses, Joyful Noises, and The Building Blocks of Musical Expression,** *Washington Legal Foundation Legal Pulse* (April 26, 2022) (with Sarah Rahimi)
- **Practicalities of Managing Remote Depositions,** *The Sedona Conference* (June 3, 2021) (with Marta Beckwith and Mark Matuschak)
- **Google v. Oracle: High Court's Transformation of Transformational Use,** *Washington Legal Foundation Legal Pulse* (May 5, 2021)



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- **Supreme Court's Media Ownership Ruling Has Silver Linings**, *Daily Journal* (Apr. 14, 2021)
- **Dr. Seuss Enterprises v. Comicmix: Insufficient Facts About Mashups Invite Danger**, *Washington Legal Foundation Legal Pulse* (Jan. 21, 2021) (with Hanna Chandoo)
- **Patent Litigation May Be On The Rise During Pandemic**, *Law360* (May 21, 2020) (with Justin Barnes and Ariel Murphy)
- **Dog Toy Maker Has Its Day With Ninth Circuit Trademark Decision**, *Washington Legal Foundation Legal Pulse* (Apr. 27, 2020) (with Jhaniel James)

