

PARTNER

# SARAH E. SPIRES

UC Berkeley, J.D. (2007)

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Sarah Spires is an accomplished patent litigator and post-grant practitioner. Recognized in the IAM Patent 1000 and as one of the Top 50 Women in PTAB Trials, she is a registered patent attorney who represents clients in business-critical litigation nationwide. She also counsels life sciences clients on strategy, valuation, and due diligence.

Sarah's post-grant practice spans more than 100 IPR and EPR proceedings before the PTAB — a caseload that puts her among just 18 attorneys nationwide with 100+ IPRs recognized on the Top 50 Women in PTAB Trials list. She represents both patent owners and petitioners across technologies including pharmaceuticals, medical devices, semiconductors, autonomous vehicles, signal processing, and natural language processing.

Sarah is also an experienced trial lawyer whose patent litigation practice spans the full range of district court proceedings, including preliminary injunctions, bench and jury trials, and complex disputes involving both patent owners and accused infringers. Her work is particularly deep in the life sciences, where she has represented branded and generic pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology companies, and medical device clients in business-critical patent disputes.

Her trial practice extends well beyond the life sciences. Sarah has litigated



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complex patent disputes involving technologies ranging from consumer electronics and semiconductors to software, telecommunications, autonomous vehicles, and signal processing. Across these matters, she has developed substantial experience translating highly technical subject matter into clear, persuasive advocacy before judges, juries, and arbitrators in the United States and internationally.

In addition to her post-grant and trial work, Sarah has briefed and argued numerous appeals before the Federal Circuit. She has also represented clients in international arbitration and before the Japan Patent Office and the Tokyo IP High Court.

Sarah also regularly advises life sciences clients on Paragraph IV analysis, IP portfolio strategy and valuation, transactional due diligence, post-grant strategy, and freedom-to-operate evaluations.

Before attending law school, Sarah earned a degree in biology from MIT, where she conducted yeast genetics research on Cdc14 activation and cellular exit from mitosis at the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research. She went on to earn her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, where she served on the Berkeley Technology Law Journal and competed on the Jessup International Law Moot Court team that won the Northwest Regional Championship. Prior to joining Stris, Sarah practiced at a patent litigation boutique in Dallas, as well as in Gibson Dunn's Dallas office and both the San Diego and Tokyo offices of Morrison & Foerster.

Sarah resides in Dallas, Texas with her husband, daughter, and two Boxer dogs.

## Associations

- Hon. Barbara M.G. Lynn American Inn of Court, Benchler (2023–2026),





Barrister (2017–2022)

- Hon. J. Clifford Wallace American Inn of Court (2007–2009)
- MIT Education Council
- PTAB Bar Association
- Federal Circuit Bar Association
- DFW Women in IP (Facilitator)
- Dallas Bar Association
- Moms in Law
- Federal Circuit Bar Association Global Fellow, 2018–2019

## Speaking Engagements

- PTAB Masters 2023: Your Patent Has Been Challenged in an IPR, What Now?
- PTAB Masters 2022: How to Avoid Obvious Mistakes with Obviousness Grounds
- Bardehle IP Academy: IPR Proceedings (2022)
- IP Watchdog Conference: Strategies and Tactics for Winning at the PTAB (2021);
- IPWatchdog 2020 Conference: Hatch-Waxman and IPR Strategy (2020)
- California Lawyers Association: Trial by Pixels: Tips & Tricks for Conducting Patent Trials Remotely (2020)
- The Center for American & International Law (CAIL) Institute for Law & Technology's PTAB Trial Proceedings Program: The Petitioner's Case in Chief: Anatomy of a Successful Petition (2018)
- Dallas Paralegal Association: IPR Filings: A Practical Guide (2018)
- The State Bar of California Intellectual Property Section Webinar: Two Roads Diverged: The Ethics of Counseling Clients While Navigating IPRs Through the Lens of Litigation (2018)
- The Knowledge Group: Isn't it Too Obvious? Challenging Obviousness in PTAB Trials for Chemical, Pharmaceutical and Biotech Patents (2017)





- BioPharma/Tech Law Symposium at Indiana University McKinney School of Law: Pitfalls and Opportunities in ANDA Litigation (2015)

## Publications

- May/June 2020 IAM Roundtable: [A new day at the PTAB?](#)
- Above the Law: [How Networking Changes \(For the Better\) When You Become a Lawyer Mom](#), April 2019
- Morrison Foerster Client Alert: [Supreme Court Sets the Bar High: Requires Knowledge or Willful Blindness to Establish Inducing Infringement of a Patent](#), May 2011
- Morrison Foerster Client Alert: [Supreme Court to Decide Intent Standard for Inducing Patent Infringement](#), Feb. 2011
- Morrison Foerster Client Alert: Wordtech and Employee Liability for Corporate Patent Infringement, Aug. 2010
- San Diego Daily Transcript: Federal Circuit's recent decision in TS Tech looms large for patent (2009)

## Awards

- Top 50 Women in PTAB Trials (1 of only 18 with 100+ IPRs), 2019–2025 (last list was in 2025)
- IAM Patent 1000, 2021–2026
- Lawdragon 500 Leading Global Antitrust & Competition Lawyers, 2025
- Best Lawyers in Texas & America: Ones to Watch, 2023–2025
- Texas Super Lawyers & Rising Stars, 2016–2023
- Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services, 2009–2011

