



Next Gen



This week's Q&A with

Christopher Capelli

Stamford Partner [Christopher Capelli](#), a member of Locke Lord's Patent Strategies Practice Group, works with clients to manage their intellectual property portfolios and achieve quality-to-cost efficiencies with the goal of maximizing the value of corporate clients' IP assets. Chris' practice is primarily focused on the patent prosecution side and related transactional activities with emphasis in the electrical and computer arts, including the fast-growing and expanding telecommunications, computer software/hardware, artificial intelligence and control system technology fields. He also provides IP training and is a frequent presenter to current and prospective clients on predictive patent analytics, utilizing voluminous data scrubbed from the patent office regarding strategic management of their patent portfolios.



More About Chris

Tell us about the most interesting or significant matter you've worked on in your career.

Early on in my career as in-house counsel for a Fortune 500 company, I played a pivotal role in acquiring a \$400 million cash settlement in a patent litigation matter, which was the second-largest patent litigation settlement at the time. I will never forget the CEO, with tears in his eyes when the settlement was reached (at about 2 a.m.), saying how proud he was of his legal team.

What has helped you to become successful in your field?

This one is simple and applies to most things in life. Put in lots and lots of hard work and, at times, it's best to keep your mouth shut and just listen.

How did you know that you wanted to practice law? // What inspired you to become a lawyer?

During my junior year in engineering school, one of my professors glamorized patent attorneys. Thus, I thought, "Hmm, this sounds fun. I'll get to work with cool inventions requiring minimal writing." I don't know where I deduced requiring minimal writing from. I couldn't have been more wrong — but I have no regrets, either. Is there another attorney cooler than a patent attorney?

If you could have dinner with one person, living or dead, who would it be and why?

This is easy (and it might have been Lance Armstrong, but we know how that story ended...I'm still not over this). It is my grandmother. She passed away when I was in undergrad. I have so many things to say to her, the most important of which is a simple "thank you."

What do you do to relax and reset after a long week?

It depends...in spring, summer and fall, road cycling (hence, my disappointment in Mr. Armstrong); in winter, downhill skiing; and all the time, just about anything that affords some solitude. This can even include digging fence post holes, so long as it provides solitude. Let's also throw in some live music and spirits, as well.

Tell us your favorite book, movie or TV show and why you like it.

The first movie that always comes to mind (which, I admit, is a little disturbing) is *Pulp Fiction*. Just a crazy, entertaining watch — it even has biblical references (Ezekiel 25:17). Not saying I use *Pulp Fiction* as a source of biblical studies, but this should count for something.

For books, it's impossible to pick just one (nothing jumps out like *Pulp Fiction*, I know, disturbing) but here are two fairly current reads I'm always recommending: *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace* by Jeff Hobbs, which sheds light on social realities of our time, about a boy from the streets of Newark, New Jersey, who was provided the opportunity to attend Yale; and *Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson, a thrilling and engaging non-fiction book about a group of divers who discovered a sunken U boat off the NJ coast — one of the most gripping books I've ever read.



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