
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GENERAL COUNSEL & CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER POSITIONS:

Ethically and efficiently plans and directs legal affairs. Provides strategic and tactical insights into future opportunities, public perception, employee morale, and risk avoidance.

UNITY SEMICONDUCTOR (2004-2010) • General Counsel & Chief IP Officer • Sunnyvale, California
Research and development of non-volatile semiconductor memory technology. Acquired by Rambus for \$35M. Unity's primary asset was its patent portfolio of over 100 issued and nearly 200 pending patents.

PURECARS (2012-2015) • General Counsel & Chief IP Officer • Charleston, South Carolina
Marketing technology for automotive dealers. Acquired by Raycom Media for \$125M (plus earn-out). Revenue more than doubled every year from 2009 - 2015.

TREND DISCOVERY (2015-2019) • Member • Remote
Capital management of hedge and private equity funds. Acquired by EcoArk.

ZAPHNE (2017-2019) • COO (Fractional) • Board Member • Remote
Automated blog content creation. (Dissolved)

TRANSITIV (2016-2023) • General Counsel & DPO (Fractional) • Board Member • Remote
Collaborative analytics and data infrastructure for franchisees. (Dissolved)

AUTOMOTIVE INNOVATIONS (2017-PRESENT) • General Counsel & DPO (Fractional) • Remote
Software tools for automotive dealers to improve profitability.

TRAVEL AIGENT (2025-PRESENT) • COO (Fractional) • Board Member • Remote
AI tools to improve profitability and workflow for travel agencies.

TEACHING POSITION:

CHARLESTON SCHOOL OF LAW (2012-2014) • Adjunct Professor • Charleston, South Carolina
Patent law elective for upper-level law students.

LAW FIRM POSITIONS:

PIERSON, SEMMES AND BEMIS (1996-1998) • Associate • Washington, District of Columbia
KEAN, MILLER, ET AL. (1998-2000) • Associate • Baton Rouge, Louisiana
CARR & FERRELL (2000-2002) • Associate and Acting Group Leader • Palo Alto, California
BEYER, WEAVER & THOMAS (2002-2004) • Associate • Palo Alto, California
KOKKA & BACKUS (2010-2011) • Of Counsel • Palo Alto, California
MALINO PATENT LAW (2011-2012) • Owner • Mount Pleasant, South Carolina
ZWERNER LAW (2018-2021) • Of Counsel • Remote
MCLESTER & NIEMIEC (2022-PRESENT) • Of Counsel • Remote

EDUCATION

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL • Washington, District of Columbia
J. D. received in May 1996
• Legal Intern for Judge Frederick D. Dorsey in the Sup. Court of DC. (Summer 1995)

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY • University Park, Pennsylvania
B. S. in Engineering Science (an honors major) received in August 1993

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIPS

- Maryland bar (active), South Carolina bar (active), California bar (inactive), Louisiana bar (inactive), and Registered Attorney with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- Investor with the VentureSouth (one of the largest angel investing groups in the US)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Presenter for "Intellectual Property for Investors" Hosted by Venture Carolina. Oct 2019
- Presenter for "Early Investor Investment Vehicles" Hosted by Charleston Angel Conference. Sep 2019
- Panel Member for the "Trade Secrets & Your IP Strategy" portion of the "IP Strategy Summit: Atlanta." Hosted by Centerforce, March 2017.
- Moderator for the "Building & Benchmarking Your IP Strategy: Finding True North" portion of the "IP Strategy Summit: Chicago." Hosted by Centerforce, May 2014.
- Panel Member for the "A Unified Patent Prosecution Strategy" portion of the "IP Strategy Summit: Chicago." Hosted by Centerforce, May 2014.
- Panel Member for the "Best Practices for Strategic Licensing" portion of the "Maximizing Returns on IP Portfolios Conference." Hosted by Incremental Advantage, March 2009.
- Panel Member for "Winning Corporate Partners and Investors." Sponsored by the Advanced Technology Program of NIST, September 2005.
- Organizer and presenter for "What You Need to Know About Patents." Hosted by the California Society of Certified Public Accountants. July 2003. 1.5 CPE credits for CPAs.
- Presenter for "American Inventors Protection Act of 1999." Hosted by Carr & Ferrell, L.L.P. October 2000. 1.0 CLE credits for attorneys.
- Presenter for "The Digital Millennium Copyright Act." Hosted by Carr & Ferrell, L.L.P. June 2000. 1.0 CLE credits for attorneys.
- Faculty member for "Copyright Law for the Digital Age in Louisiana." Hosted by the National Business Institute. February 2000. 3.6 CLE credits for attorneys.
- Presenter for "Internet Strategies for the Paralegal in Louisiana." Hosted by Institute for Paralegal Education. August 1999. 6.0 CLE credits for paralegals.
- Guest lecturer at the Louisiana State University Law School. Internet-specific intellectual property issues including cyber-squatting, deep linking, and meta tagging. October 1998.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- "GDPR is Here – Is it time to panic yet?," *Magazine of the South Carolina Bar* (September, 2018)
- "Court Reconsiders Reverse Engineering and Fair Use," *National Law Journal* (October 16, 2000)
- "Protecting Your Web Site," *Legal Alert - Bus. Notes* (June 1999).
- "Trademark Rights and Piano Builders: A Response," *Piano Technicians J.* (Vol. 42, No. 1, Jan. 1999).
- "New Law on Year 2000 Readiness: Quick Action Required for Retroactivity," *Legal Alert - Bus. Notes* (Nov. 1998).
- "Showdown Over the Sundance Trademark," *Counselor* (Vol. 11, No. 3 Oct. 1998).
- "Does Your Business Have Any Trade Secrets Worth Protecting?" *Legal Alert - Bus. Notes* (Apr. 1998).
- "The Internet--A Primer," *Guide to International Legal Research* (2d ed., 1996 Supp: A Guide to Internet and Commercial Online Research) by the Journal of International Law and Economics.

OTHER

- Interviewed and quoted for magazine article, Joel Enos, "Rubber-Stamping E-Business Patents," *Upside*, July 2000.
- Interviewed and quoted for newspaper article, Michelle Mahfoufi, "Protecting your business from Y2K liability," *Lake Charles American Press*, Nov. 29, 1998, at D1.

REFERENCES

Contact information will be provided upon request
Paul "Hoss" Devine, CEO of Automotive Innovations
Lauren Niemiec, Partner of McLester & Niemiec
Tim Zwerner, Partner of Burr & Forman