

## Patents & Freedom to Operate

Shartsis Friese's Patent & Freedom to Operate lawyers advise clients on IP protection strategies, not only to protect ideas but to advance business goals.

### Turning Innovation Into Competitive Advantage

Innovation drives growth, but IP protection turns that innovation into lasting value. Shartsis Friese helps technology-driven businesses protect and strategically deploy their intellectual property to strengthen market position, attract investment and mitigate competitive risk.

### Comprehensive Patent Portfolio Strategy

Our attorneys work closely with other law firms on patent filings to help our clients build patent portfolios that provide a sustainable competitive edge in the U.S. and abroad. We tailor each strategy to the company's size, industry and technology, balancing cost and coverage to achieve maximum impact.

### Freedom-to-Operate and Risk Assessment

Before bringing a new product to market, companies must ensure they have the freedom to operate without infringing third-party rights. We conduct detailed patent landscape analyses to assess the scope, validity and potential impact of competitor patents. Our attorneys provide practical, business-focused opinions and risk assessments that help clients launch confidently, avoid litigation and plan for future innovation.

### Patent Acquisitions, Licensing and Due Diligence

Our team advises clients on the acquisition, sale and licensing of patent

#### RELATED ATTORNEYS

[Erick C. Howard, Partner](#)

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rights, drawing on deep experience across both technology and investment sectors. We conduct company-side and investor-side due diligence in M&A and financing transactions, evaluating the ownership, validity and enforceability of key IP assets. We also assist in structuring joint development and cross-licensing agreements that allow clients to expand market opportunities while preserving their competitive advantage.

## Leveraging Patents for Growth and Defense

We help clients leverage their patent portfolios both offensively and defensively, protecting against infringement, enabling licensing revenue and deterring competitor claims. Our attorneys regularly collaborate with the firm's litigators to develop coordinated enforcement and defensive strategies when disputes arise.

## Experience

- Prepared patent Freedom-to-Operate opinions evaluating infringement and validity across key competitors' portfolios to support product development and strategic investment decisions by a global technology company specializing in data center systems hardware and software.
- Performed patent Freedom-to-Operate evaluation addressing infringement exposure and validity defenses to mitigate litigation and risk for a product manufacturer servicing the building construction industry.
- Advised a consumer products company on new product design, evaluating both patent infringement and invalidity risks to help the client launch products with confidence.
- Drafted and negotiated a consortium agreement for leading manufacturers and designers of high-performance networking equipment.
- Represented a materials processing company in negotiating and drafting a patent license and technology agreement for proprietary systems used to extract and recover valuable materials from industrial waste streams.
- Represented a Fortune 1000 company in acquiring patents for advanced structural and anchoring solutions.

