

# Preface

It is my pleasure and privilege to write this Preface to the Fourteenth edition of *Patents and the Federal Circuit*. Just as with past editions, the Fourteenth Edition covers all precedential patent opinions issued by the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit through the end of 2018, as well as all patent decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States through June 2019. This edition also continues to follow the approach and format followed by the original author, Bob Harmon (1938–2010), and strives to reflect faithfully the current state of U.S. patent law within the context of its evolution during the life of the Federal Circuit. For loyal followers of this treatise, you may notice that we have decided to mark this final print edition with a return to the original red and silver color scheme of the first edition, which Bob published in 1988.

Much has changed since 1988. With the rise of the internet and digital books, the decision has been made to discontinue the print edition of this book for the foreseeable future. Instead, we will continue to carefully update and revise it in digital form, which is available via Bloomberg Law. With the 2018 cases added in this edition, we have also dropped parallel citations to the *United States Patent Quarterly* (USPQ) but continue to provide pin citations to the *Federal Reporter* (currently, F.3d). Since 1913, the USPQ served as the central repository for reported decisions on patents, copyrights and trade secrets. When Bob began this treatise, parallel USPQ citations were still required in Federal Circuit briefs and used in its decisions. In 1988, it made perfect sense that *Patents and the Federal Circuit* used pin citations to the USPQ. Today, the USPQ cites are no longer required and new cases are no longer added to the USPQ. You can still access USPQ pin cites for older cases electronically on Bloomberg Law.

Faithful users of this treatise will also note the change in names on the cover. In the past year, my partner, Cynthia Homan, retired from the practice of law after nearly 41 years at Brinks Gilson & Lione. She worked alongside Bob for many of those years and cared deeply about maintaining this treatise. But Cindy's contributions to our firm and the practice of intellectual property law go beyond this treatise. Cindy headed the firm's Appellate Practice Group for many

years and tirelessly coached generations of young attorneys in legal writing and Federal Circuit practice. She was an amazing partner and remains a great teacher and friend.

While my name may be a relatively new edition to the cover, I am no stranger to this treatise. In 2009, Cindy brought me onto the Harmon team—then just two partners and two associates. I was the junior member of the team, having just joined the firm in 2007 after clerking at the Federal Circuit with Judge Alvin A. Schall and then the Northern District of Illinois with Judge Ruben Castillo. While I can only claim to have met Bob in person once, I feel that, with this treatise, I have inherited his legacy, a responsibility I have taken seriously for 10 years and will carry forward in electronic form.

The formidable task of maintaining *Patents and the Federal Circuit* would not be possible without the support and talent of my colleagues at Brinks Gilson & Lione. I want to take special note of three of my colleagues who put a tremendous effort into stepping in to fill the gap left by Cindy's retirement with the Fourteenth Edition: Judy K. He, Joshua H. James, and Andrea L. Shoffstall each updated chapters of this edition and are credited accordingly. It is my pleasure and privilege to work with these three outstanding attorneys on a daily basis both on this treatise and on various district court and Federal Circuit matters.

Judy, Josh, Andrea and I also had help from many of our other Brinks colleagues, including Daniel Parrish, who has tirelessly assisted for several years with insights, suggestions, and coordinating review of the Federal Circuit's decisions. Mary LaFleur has been instrumental in finalizing and proofing this edition, in addition to her contributions to the substance of the book. I am also grateful for the assistance of the additional Brinks attorneys who put in many hours reviewing cases, outlining the key holdings, and mapping where they should be inserted into this nearly 2000-page treatise: Louis Constantinou, Jafon Fearson, Sarah Goodman, Weichih Hsu, Dalton Hughes, Amanda Kreger, Ji Lee, Jaebok Lee, Dan Liu, Michelle Song, John Sabacinski, Tracey Starck, and Alexis White.

Finally, thank you to the editors and staff at Bloomberg Law, whose encouragement is timely, and whose guidance is necessary. Special thanks to Elizabeth Turqman, our acquisitions manager, and Elizabeth Kline, our editor. Their professionalism, understanding, and support made our task significantly easier. We appreciate their guidance, attention to detail, and patience.

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