

Speaker Biography



William F. Lee

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Co-Managing Partner, WilmerHale

Bill Lee is co-managing partner of WilmerHale. He was managing partner of Hale and Dorr from 2000 to 2004 and chaired the firm's Litigation Department for four years. Mr. Lee joined the firm in 1976.

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Practice Focus

Litigation

- Intellectual Property

Education

- J.D., *magna cum laude*, [Cornell Law School](#), 1976, Order of the Coif
- M.B.A., with Distinction, [Cornell Business School](#), 1976
- A.B., *magna cum laude*, [Harvard College](#), 1972

Bar Admissions

- Massachusetts
United States Supreme
Court

Practice

In addition to his firm responsibilities, Mr. Lee continues to concentrate his practice primarily on intellectual property and commercial litigation. His trial experience is extensive.

Mr. Lee has acted as lead trial counsel in a patent litigation concerning a genetically engineered tomato product; a trial involving the right to manufacture and sell recombinant erythropoietin; a trial before the International Trade Commission involving \$3 billion of commerce; and trials in federal court involving laser optics, video conferencing, remote data storage, secure Internet communicator, dye chemistry, high-speed chromatography and medical devices.

From July 1987 through June 1989, Mr. Lee served as associate counsel to Independent Counsel Lawrence E. Walsh in the Iran-Contra investigation. In that capacity, he was responsible for certain portions of the grand jury investigation and resulting indictments. He also has served as a special assistant to the Massachusetts attorney general for the purpose of investigating alleged incidents of racial bias in the Commonwealth's courts.

Professional Activities

Mr. Lee has served as a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, where he taught intellectual property litigation. In May 2000, Mr. Lee was one of 15 attorneys to be named by the chief judge for the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit to the court's Advisory Committee. The committee has advised the court on ways to improve the administration of justice. At the request of the judges of the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts, Mr. Lee served on the court's Advisory Committee on its local rules, the Committee to Evaluate Administration of the Criminal Justice Act, and the Merit Selection Panel on Magistrate Judges. At the request of the US District Court for the District of Delaware, he serves on its Intellectual Property Advisory Committee. The governor of Massachusetts appointed Mr. Lee to serve on a special Judicial Nominating Committee for the selection of judges for the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

In June 2002, Mr. Lee was elected to the Board of Overseers of Harvard University, an appointment that he adds to his duties as a member of the Visiting Committee at Cornell Law School. He previously served as vice chairman of the board of the Boston University Medical Center University Hospital, a trustee of the Boston Medical Center and an overseer of the Museum of Science.

Honors and Awards

- Named one of the "[The 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America](#)" by *The National Law Journal*

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- Listed in the 2006-07 edition of the [PLC IP & IT Cross-Border Handbook](#) as both a "leading" lawyer for intellectual property in Boston and for patent litigation in the US
- Listed in the [PLC Which Lawyer? Yearbook 2006](#) as one of Boston's top attorneys in the dispute resolution and intellectual property categories, and as national leader in patent litigation
- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
- Recognized for exceptional standing in the legal community in the field of intellectual property in the 2006 edition of [Chambers Global: The World's Leading Lawyers](#)
- Listed in each edition of [Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business](#) since 2003. Was the only Massachusetts lawyer awarded the "star" ranking in intellectual property (a stand-alone award above the number one ranking) (2004, 2005 and 2006 editions).
- Listed as "Bean Town's best and brightest intellectual property litigator," in *Lawdragon Magazine's* "500 Leading Lawyers in America" (October 2005)
- Selected by *The National Law Journal* as one of the 2005 "Top Ten Lawyers with Successful Trial Strategies." (Mr. Lee was cited for his victory against Hewlett-Packard Co. in an infringement case involving three patents for remote data storage and mirroring technology.)
- Listed as one of four "star" lawyers of the firm and ranked as a leading lawyer in dispute resolution and intellectual property in Boston in the [PLC Which Lawyer? Yearbook 2005](#), formerly *Global Counsel 3000*
- Selected by peers for inclusion in every issue of *The Best Lawyers in America* since 1995/1996
- Recognized in the November 2004 and 2005 editions of [Boston Magazine](#) as a "Top Ten Super Lawyer" in the intellectual property litigation category in Massachusetts
- Selected by *The National Law Journal* for its annual list "The 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America" in June 2000. (Mr. Lee was cited for leading Hale and Dorr to become nationally and internationally dominant in technology, and locally, in pro bono services. *The National Law Journal* also named Mr. Lee one of the country's top 10 litigators. He was profiled in the *Journal* as a leading trial attorney who has amassed a "long record of favorable jury verdicts" and for having won a high-profile, significant case involving the defense of a patent infringement charge.)

Community Involvement

A resident of Wellesley, Mr. Lee has served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Tenacre Country Day School.