

Stephen Peterson is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP. Mr. Peterson received a Bachelor of Science degree in Material Science from California State University at San Jose in 1967. He joined the Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio as a research metallurgist. While conducting materials research at Battelle, he attended the Ohio State University doing graduate work in metallurgical engineering. His areas of research at Battelle included the investigation of the mechanical properties of irradiated ferrous metals, fabrication of complex shapes using powder metallurgy and explosive forming, alteration of mechanical properties of formed metal articles by shock induced crystalline defects, advanced weapons and armor concepts, and projectile fabrication. He is the author of several technical papers in the area of testing of radioactive nuclear reactor materials and presented those papers before the American Nuclear Society.



In 1969 he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps reserve as a Private and remained in the marine Reserves until 1975. During his active duty he received combat infantry training with the regular Marine Corps as a combat rifleman and 60mm mortarman. That training included practical experience in all ordinance used by the Marine infantry company, including booby traps, mines, plastic explosive, anti-tank weapons, individual and crew served infantry weapons. In his reserve unit he rose from an infantry squad leader to the squad leader of the mortar section of the weapons platoon, to the head of the company motor pool, where he was responsible for all maintenance for diesel and gasoline driven vehicles for two infantry companies.

From 1970-1974 he worked as a patent agent in the Patent and Legal department of the Battelle Columbus Laboratories and attended law school in the evenings. His areas of responsibility were materials and mechanical technologies. He gained extensive patent experience in rapid solidification techniques, powder metal fabrication, wrote the basic patents in what become know as the "melt extraction" technique for forming wire directly from molten metal, and a wide variety of mechanical patent work. In 1974 he did a special project marketing a new type of research program for the Battelle Development Corporation. He received his J.D. from Capital University Law School in 1974.

He joined Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow & Garrett (now Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP) in 1975 and has, in addition to practicing conventional intellectual property law, specialized in litigation of patent and trade secret cases for small technology based organizations. He has been involved in the litigation a number of patents in U.S. District Courts, before the International Trade Commission (ITC) and litigated trade secret cases in various state courts. He has extensive experience in alternate dispute resolution, "Early Neutral Evaluation," and has acted as a special master in district court matters. He has litigated a number of design patent cases and supervises a number of attorney at Finnegan Henderson in that area of the law. He represented the successful Australian syndicate in patent and trade secret matters in the 1987 America's Cup Challenge and successfully protected the famous "winged keel." He has done extensive patent work in the area of high performance magnetic materials, magnetic recording, ceramics, powder metallurgy, advanced materials fabrication, reactive and passive armor, welding, and advanced weapons and projectiles.

He has lectured at Georgetown University School of Business, and before various technical societies regarding intellectual property, technology transfer, and the use of intellectual property as the basis for starting a technology-based company. Mr. Peterson is the past Chairman of the Patent, Trademark and Copyright Section of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. He is past Chairman of the Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Federal Circuit Bar Association, formerly on its Board of Governors, and was its president in 2003-2004. He is currently the Chair of the Scholarship Committee for the Federal Circuit Bar Association. He is a hunter and restores old racing motorcycles.

Admitted:

1974, Ohio; 1975, District of Columbia; 1981, U.S. Supreme Court; 1983, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Education:

Capital University Law School (J.D., 1974); Ohio State University (graduate work in Metallurgical Engineering (1968-69); California State University at San Jose (B.S., Material Science, 1967).

Association Involvement:

District of Columbia Bar; Bar Association of the District of Columbia, Section on Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law; Bar Association of the District of Columbia (Board of Directors, 1987-1988; Chairman, 1986-1987; Council Member, 1982-1985); American Bar Association; Federal Circuit Bar Association (Past -President,; Board of Directors, 1994-1997; Member, Continuing Legal Education, 1992-1994; Chairman, Meetings and Programs, 1987-1992; Chairman, Scholarship Committee, 2001-present); International Trade Commission Trial Lawyers Association; American Intellectual Property Law Association; Giles S. Rich American Inn of Court; International Association of Protocol Consultants (Board of Directors, 2004 –present); GenderPac (Board of Advisors, 2001-2003, Board of Directors, 2003-present); and Academy of Court Appointed Masters (member 2006-present).