

RJ Zayed

Partner

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RJ counsels and represents clients on critical matters involving trade secrets, patents, trademarks and copyrights; intellectual property litigation; government enforcement actions; white collar defense; and internal investigations.

RJ has tried over 60 cases to jury verdict in federal court as lead trial counsel. These include both civil and criminal matters involving economic espionage and misappropriation of trade secrets; computer fraud and abuse; patent, copyright and trademark infringement; trafficking in counterfeit goods; bank, computer, healthcare, mail, and wire fraud; false statements, false claims, whistleblower litigation, and retaliatory discharges. RJ also has handled hundreds of evidentiary hearings and numerous civil and criminal bench trials. RJ has been lead counsel and has argued over 50 criminal and civil appeals before the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fourth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Federal Circuits and the Illinois and Minnesota Appellate Courts.

RJ's intellectual property practice focuses on trade secrets, economic espionage, computer fraud and abuse, patents, copyright, and trademark matters.

RJ's government enforcement and corporate investigations practice focuses on counseling, compliance, internal investigations, and defense of government enforcement actions and investigations and white-collar criminal defense with a focus on criminal trade secret misappropriation, economic espionage, and trafficking in counterfeit goods and import and export violations.

Select Experience

Intellectual Property

RJ's experience includes counseling, investigating, developing, asserting, and defending patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secret claims for many Fortune 500 companies including manufacturers and providers of medical devices, pharmaceuticals,

Education

- University of Illinois (J.D., 1989)
 - *summa cum laude*; Order of the Coif; Notes and Comments Editor
- Illinois Institute of Technology (B.S.E.E., 1979)
 - Computer Science Minor

Bar Admissions

- United States Patent and Trademark Office
- Illinois
- Minnesota

nutraceuticals, healthcare services, semiconductors, software products, electronic products, wireless communications and systems, precision tooling, fertilizers, paints, and chemicals.

RJ's technical and patent attorney background has enabled him to handle matters involving the design and operation of computers, wireless devices and telecommunications systems and protocols, electronic consumer products, electronic control systems, Coriolis flowmeters, encryption devices, memory devices, digital and analog circuitry, electrical transmission, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals and nutritional supplements, multi-modal polymers, adhesives, composites, and electrical, chemical, and mechanical processes.

Prior to law school, RJ worked seven years as a hardware and software design engineer for Honeywell, Inc., designing microprocessor-based instrumentation and digital and analog circuitry for environmental control systems used in commercial buildings and complexes. He received the Honeywell Technical Excellence Award for his design of software and hardware-controlled memory device and circuit board testing system.

RJ has successfully led numerous trade secret misappropriation, patent and trademark litigation matters in the following areas, among others:

- Defending a \$4 billion misappropriation of trade secrets case involving systematic mathematical investment models which settled favorably after plaintiff was ordered to provide a detailed and specific description of the alleged trade secrets.
- Prosecuting a \$40 million misappropriation of trade secrets case involving mining processes which settled favorably on the eve of trial.
- Defending a \$60 million patent infringement case involving atrial septal occluder devices and obtaining summary judgments of unenforceability as to the first asserted patent, non-infringement as to the second asserted patent and invalidity as to third asserted patent with all three judgments being affirmed on appeal.
- Prosecuting a \$27 million patent infringement case involving cardiovascular stents to jury verdict and prevailing on appeal.

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

Professional Affiliations

- Serves the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota under its Criminal Justice Act Plan and is appointed regularly to represent indigent criminal defendants in federal felony cases
- Served on Court's Federal Practice (Local Rules) Committee and ECF Sealed Committee

Clerkships

- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chief Judge John F. Grady, 1989–1991

Accolades

- *Chambers USA*, Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations, Minnesota, 2020-2026
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Criminal Defense: White Collar, Intellectual Property Litigation, 2015-2026
- *Minnesota Monthly*, "Top Lawyers in Minnesota," 2024-2026
- *Minnesota Super Lawyers*®, 2001-2006, 2010-2025
- MSBA, North Star Lawyer, 2013-2025
- Consistently providing pro bono legal assistance to those in need through Dorsey's Pro Bono program
- *IAM Patent 1000*, World's Leading Patent Practitioners, 2019-2021
- *Hennepin County Bar Association Excellence Award for Pro Bono Service*, 2018
- Rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell's® highest peer recognition for ethical standards and legal ability

Languages

- Spanish
- Arabic

Insights

June 18, 2025

New DOJ Guidelines Mark the End of the FCPA Enforcement "Pause"

February 11, 2025

Should Your Company Shut Down Its Anti-Corruption Compliance Program and Start Paying Bribes? Here Are a Few Reasons to Think Twice Before Doing So.

October 21, 2024

Choose Your Words Wisely: Hearsay Rules, Conspiracy, and Healthcare Fraud

March 14, 2024

DOJ to Develop New Whistleblower Program to Augment Existing Federal Whistleblower Programs

October 16, 2023

Department of Justice Seeks to Reward Due Diligence and Timely Self-Disclosures in Mergers & Acquisitions Through New Safe Harbor Policy

June 21, 2023

Dorsey Lawyers Step in as Pro Bono Referees

January 26, 2023

DOJ Announces Additional Incentives for Corporate Cooperation in Criminal Enforcement

September 19, 2022

DOJ Paving a More Structured Path for Corporate Criminal Enforcement

January 14, 2021

Borrowers & Banks Beware: The New Year Brings the Nation's First False Claims Act Settlement for Paycheck Protection Program Fraud

November 12, 2020

Can I please go to work yet?

July 23, 2020

Minnesota Businesses Must Require Workers, Customers, and Visitors to Wear Masks

June 16, 2020

The Convergence: Feds Level First Hybrid Healthcare- and Securities-fraud Charges Arising from COVID-19 Marketing and Sales

June 8, 2020

Minnesota Critical Sector Employers Must Develop and Implement Written COVID-19 Preparedness Plans by June 29 Under Latest Order from Gov. Walz

May 14, 2020

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz Further Loosens COVID-19 Workplace Restrictions Effective May 17 at 11:59 pm – but Requires Newly-Reopening Employers to Implement Preparedness Plans

April 24, 2020

Governor Tim Walz April 23 Order Allowing Additional Businesses to Restart Operation

