



Kristi Nicholes

Counsel

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Mary (Kristi) Nicholes began her career as a chemical engineer and inventor in the semiconductor industry before transitioning into intellectual property law. Her practice centers on patent law and client counseling across the pharmaceutical, chemical and cannabis industries. With experience spanning all facets of patent law—including prosecution, technology transfer, and litigation—Kristi has worked in-house and in private practice, advising clients from initial invention conception to commercialization.

Her scientific and engineering background allows her to navigate complex technologies in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, cannabis, plant genetics, semiconductor equipment, artificial intelligence (including robotics), mining, chemicals and materials. She manages large patent portfolios for U.S. and international clients, applying over 15 years of legal experience to develop effective patent strategies and overcome legal and technical challenges.

Kristi also handles complex cases involving substantial prior art, requiring intricate legal and technical arguments. Her ability to communicate effectively and collaborate with examiners has repeatedly led to the approval of commercially valuable patents. As an innovator, she thrives working with inventors to secure broad protection for their ideas and crafting creative IP solutions in challenging situations.

With her diverse experiences, Kristi can guide business owners and inventors through the evolving landscape of technology and law. With a deep passion for science, engineering, and innovation, Kristi remains at the forefront of emerging industries, helping clients transform ideas into valuable assets.

Education

- Seton Hall University School of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*)
- University of Washington (B.S.)
 - Dean's List

State Bar Admissions

Services

- Intellectual Property
- Patents
- Cannabis Law

- New York
- New Jersey

Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the District of New Jersey
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- United States Patent and Trademark Office

Offit Kurman Blogs

April 6, 2026

USPTO Issues Final Rule Requiring U.S.-Registered Patent Practitioner Representation for Foreign Applicants and Patent Owners

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has issued a Final Rule , published March 20, 2026, requiring all foreign-domiciled patent applicants, inventors, and patent owners to be represented by a U.S.-registered patent attorney (a lawyer who has passed...