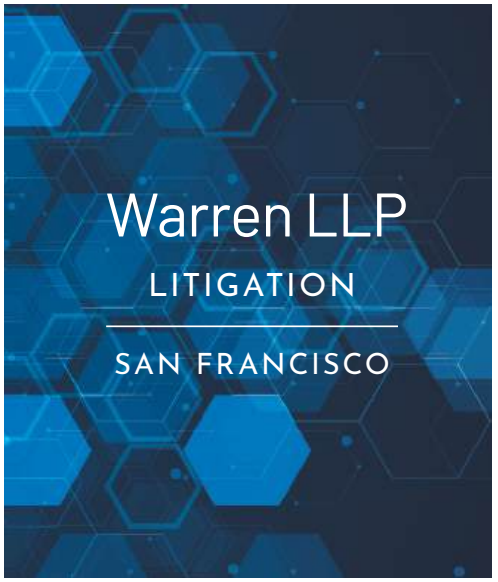
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TOP BOUTIQUES IN CALIFORNIA 2026



CELEBRATING CALIFORNIA'S SMALL BUT MIGHTY SPECIALIZED LAW FIRMS





When Intellectual Ventures sued American Airlines and Southwest Airlines in two Texas courts over the Wi-Fi on their planes, the attorneys at Warren LLP saw that the patent holder had gone after the customers. The airlines did not build the technology. Viasat, which supplies Wi-Fi to carriers across the country, did.

The firm filed declaratory judgment claims for Viasat in the District of Delaware and defeated Intellectual Ventures' motion to dismiss on first-to-file grounds, placing the claims against Viasat's products before one court.

"The airlines' other providers followed suit, literally: there are now several declaratory actions against Intellectual Ventures pending in the District of Delaware that track our strategy of vindicating the rights of the true defendant, the manufacturer of the accused products," said Managing Partner Erika Warren. "These cases are now in one court rather than giving patentees an open range to target downstream companies."

She links the trend to shifts in patent law. "Given the steady tide of patent assertion and changes to the availability of inter partes review, it makes sense that defendants are finding creative ways to fight back, and we're proud to be a part of forging the path," she said. "I hear DJ actions are all the rage now. I don't want to say we started it, but I'll think it."

The firm's roots trace to Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, where Erika and partner Matthew Warren met and worked together on technology litigation.

"Over the past 12 years, we've built a reputation for delivering high-octane representation and impeccable client service," Erika Warren said.

The firm handles disputes over patents, trade secrets, copyrights, trademarks, antitrust, unfair competition, contracts and licensing. Its attorneys appear in courts across the country, before the International Trade Commission and the Patent Trial and Appeal Board and in arbitration. Its matters involve artificial intelligence, software, networking, robotics and SaaS. Clients include Albertsons, Databricks, Discord, Google, HMD Global, OpenAI, Samsung, Scale AI and Viasat.

Matthew Warren is leading an action to enforce the patent-licensing provisions of the Apache License.

"Under the Apache License, if you contribute to the development of an open-source project, you must license your patents to that project," he said. "We're excited about this case because it has the potential to prevent improper attempts to seek patent royalties not only by the

defendants to our case, but also across the open-source ecosystem. Open-source software has made a great contribution to California and the world, and we're proud to be on its side."

The firm's caseload keeps expanding. "We've grown more this year in terms of new matters, new clients and new attorneys than any year in the firm's history," Erika Warren said. "We've seen significant growth in non-patent work in recent years, including major cases involving trade secrets, copyrights and likeness claims."

Each addition to the team gets scrutiny. "Every hire is a personal investment for a small law firm, and we focus on finding lawyers who do great work but are also passionate about owning their role on the team from day one," she said. "You can't hide in an office reviewing documents at our firm."

Partner Patricia Peden said discipline governs which cases the firm takes. "The biggest hidden challenge is learning what not to do," she said. "It is tempting for a boutique firm to accept every case that comes its way. However, pursuing every opportunity risks compromising our availability for the high-stakes cases we are designed to litigate."

Matthew Warren acknowledged the pull of the firm's competitors. "We always must contend with the old saw: that nobody ever got fired for hiring Biglaw," he said. "Luckily for us, we've had clients with faith in us since we founded the firm, and hiring smaller firms is more common now than it was when we started."

The firm builds its own software. "I often say that we're the smallest law firm on the planet with a full-time software engineer; I can't prove it, but I'm confident it's true," Matthew Warren said.

Erika Warren is watching how courts treat AI. "My hope is that the next few years will bring some clarity and stability in the law as it relates to privilege and discovery around AI tools; it's a murky time and there's so much opportunity, it just has to shake out in the courts a bit," she said.

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