



## STEVEN L. OBERHOLTZER **SHAREHOLDER**

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### EDUCATION

J.D.,  
Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University, 1981  
B.S., Mechanical Engineering  
General Motors Institute (now Kettering University), 1977

### BAR ADMISSIONS

Michigan  
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

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Steven Oberholtzer's practice focuses on the development and implementation of corporate intellectual property policies, intellectual asset management, litigation, and technology licensing.

Steven has decades of experience representing clients in the automotive industry, including current responsibility for the worldwide intellectual property issues of multiple automotive suppliers. A lifelong auto enthusiast, he worked as an engineer at General Motors and as a senior project engineer with a domestic OEM manufacturer before receiving his law degree. He previously served as in-house patent counsel for a Tier 1 supplier, and in private practice has acted as primary outside counsel for a number of Tier 1 and lower Tier suppliers.

Steven frequently supervises teams of attorneys managing all of his clients' intellectual property matters. Clients look to him not only for his handling of tactical matters such as patent applications, but his ability to strategically think forward about the challenges coming their way.

Familiar with a range of mechanical and electromechanical disciplines, he has also worked with clients technology areas including medical devices, lasers, fiber optics, optical devices and heavy industrial equipment. A frequent writer and speaker on intellectual property policy development, Steven also has experience in United States Patent and Trademark Office administrative proceedings, including trademark oppositions and patent application preparation and prosecution. He regularly provides opinions regarding infringement risks, design-around projects, patentability, litigation, and intellectual property issues surrounding merger and acquisition transactions.

### EXPERIENCE | OVERVIEW

- Served as primary outside counsel to multiple Tier 1 auto suppliers.
- Developed intellectual property policies for multiple automotive industry clients.
- Acted as trial counsel in patent infringement cases in federal district court.

### EXPERIENCE | LEGAL

- **Brinks Gilson & Lione**, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Shareholder, 2001-Present  
Managing Partner, Ann Arbor Office  
Member, Board of Directors, 2007-2008

Biographies | Steven L. Oberholtzer

- **Harness, Dickey & Pierce**  
Partner, 1987-2001  
Associate, 1983-1987
- **Kelsey Hayes, Inc.**  
Associate Patent Counsel, 1981-1983

### **PRACTICE GROUPS**

Licensing  
Patent Prosecution

### **AREA OF FOCUS**

Automotive

### **HONORS**

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Patent Law, 2007-2019
- Patent Law "Lawyer of the Year" - Ann Arbor, *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2018
- Leading Patent Practitioner, *Intellectual Asset Management* magazine's "IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Practitioners," 2014-2018
- Named among the "Top Lawyers in Metro Detroit," *Dbusiness*, 2013, 2018
- IP Star, *Managing Intellectual Property* magazine, 2013, 2014, 2016-2018
- Leading Intellectual Property Lawyer, Leading Lawyers Network, Law Bulletin Publishing Company, 2014-2015
- Leader in the Law Award, *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, 2012
- Michigan Super Lawyers, 2006-2012, 2014
- "AV" Peer-Review Rated, highest ranking for Ethical Standards and Legal Ability, Martindale-Hubbell
- Certified Licensing Professional (CLP), 2009-Present

### **AFFILIATIONS**

- Washtenaw County Bar Association  
Chair, Intellectual Property Law Section
- Technology Transfer Society
- Michigan Patent Law Association
- Licensing Executives Society - Co-Chair, Michigan Chapter
- Original Equipment Suppliers Association