

Robotics & Automation

Thinking Strategically to Stay Ahead of Technological Advancements



Our Robotics Industry team represents robotics companies, automation businesses, and autonomous systems developers in all stages of growth—from early stage startups to established manufacturers and investors. We help robotics clients protect their technology, navigate complex regulations, and scale their businesses with legally sound structures and agreements.

We focus specifically on legal services for robotics companies, including patent and trademark representation, IP licensing, corporate and employment counseling, tax planning, commercial contracts, privacy compliance, and litigation.

Our attorneys have technical backgrounds in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer science, and related disciplines, and understand the software, AI, and embedded control systems that power modern robots and autonomous systems. This makes it easier for robotics founders, engineers, and product teams to work directly with us to translate complex designs and algorithms into strong patent portfolios, effective trademark strategies, practical licensing structures, and focused risk management.

Our capabilities enable us to work with clients developing:

- Warehouse automation and robotics-driven logistics operations.
- Autonomous and semi-autonomous vehicles, including drones and ground vehicles.
- Autonomous submersible vehicles and underwater inspection robots.
- Household and consumer robots, including communication and home-assistance devices.
- Industrial robots and collaborative robots (cobots) for manufacturing and materials handling.
- Robotic-assisted medical and surgical devices and healthcare automation.
- AI and machine-learning systems used to perceive environments, plan movements, and control robotic operations.
- Sensor arrays, imaging systems, and industrial process controls that enable precision robotics and automation.

Legal services for robotics companies

From a legal services standpoint, our robotics, patent, and trademark lawyers and broader robotics legal team provide the following legal services:

Team

Laurie A. Burlingame
Michael J. Cavaretta
Sean D. Detweiler
Michael R. Jabbawy
James M. McKenzie
Elizabeth A. Resteghini

Related Practices

Licensing & Commercial Contracts

- Draft and prosecute patents for robotics hardware, control software, perception and planning algorithms, and integrated robotic systems.
- Secure and enforce trademarks for robotics companies, product names, and platform brands, including clearance and filing strategies.
- Structure and negotiate IP licensing, OEM, distribution, and strategic partnership agreements for robotics technologies.
- Advise on corporate formation, governance, venture financings, M&A transactions, and joint ventures in the robotics sector.
- Counsel on employment, equity incentives, confidentiality, and restrictive covenants for specialized robotics workforces.
- Address tax considerations for robotics businesses and investors, including incentives and cross-border planning.
- Draft and negotiate commercial contracts, service agreements, and robotics-as-a-service (RaaS) subscriptions.
- Provide guidance on data privacy, cybersecurity, and regulatory compliance for robots that collect, process, or transmit data.
- Represent clients in commercial litigation and IP disputes involving robotics technologies, including trade secret, patent, and trademark matters.