

Partner, New York

Intellectual Property and Technology



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Education

J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 1992 (*cum laude*; Articles Editor, *Michigan Law Review*)

B.A., Amherst College, 1987 (*summa cum laude*; Phi Beta Kappa)

Bar Admissions

New York

Associations

Member, International Trademark Association (INTA)

Advisory Board Member (Intellectual Property and Technology), Practical Law Company

Experience

Law Clerk, Hon. Michael B. Mukasey, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York (1993-94)

Bruce Goldner counsels on mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings, non-disclosure agreements, licensing, strategic commercial arrangements, financings and litigation for various brands and clients in the consumer goods, food and beverage, fashion, software and technology industries, as well as with regard to social media matters and persona rights.

For many years, Mr. Goldner served as head of the firm's New York office and co-head of the firm's Intellectual Property and Technology Group. He currently serves as a chair of Skadden's firmwide Pro Bono Committee.

Intellectual Property Transactions and Licensing

Significant intellectual property transactions of Mr. Goldner have included:

- Prada S.p.A. in its pending \$1.4 billion acquisition of Versace, including brand and related intellectual property analyses and structuring
- JAB Holdings in its acquisitions of Dr. Pepper Snapple, Insomnia Cookies, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Peet's Coffee & Tea and Panera Bread, and in related commercial agreements
- Mars, Incorporated in its pending \$35.9 billion acquisition of Kellanova, a leading global snack, international cereal and plant-based foods company and owner of iconic brands such as Kellogg's, Pringles, Pop-Tarts and Morningstar Farms
- Tom Ford International and its licensing affiliate in the \$2.8 billion sale of the TOM FORD fashion brand and related intellectual property to Estée Lauder Companies Inc.
- Peet's Coffee in its acquisition of Stumptown Coffee Roasters and acquisition of a majority stake in Intelligentsia Coffee & Tea, and in Peet's licensing of its first-ever international coffee bar in Shanghai, China
- The Coca-Cola Company in its worldwide strategic partnership with Monster Beverage Corporation and its acquisitions of Energy Brands/Glaceau (the producer of Smartwater and Vitaminwater) and Honest Tea
- Du Pont in its:
 - \$130 billion merger with the Dow Chemical Company and the separation of Dow DuPont into three independent public companies
 - \$45.4 billion reverse spin-off and merger of its Nutrition & Biosciences business with International Flavors & Fragrances
 - spin-off of its performance chemicals business into a separate, publicly traded company called The Chemours Company
 - \$4.9 billion sale of its high-performance coating business to The Carlyle Group
 - \$6.3 billion acquisition of Danisco A/S, a global manufacturer of food ingredients
 - sale of its pharmaceutical business to Bristol-Myers Squibb for \$7.8 billion; and in related manufacture, supply, distribution, technology and services agreements
- The Hershey Company in its acquisition of SkinnyPop popcorn

- Kraft Foods in its separation into the Mondelēz snack foods (e.g., Oreo, Cadbury) and Kraft grocery businesses (e.g., Kool-Aid, Kraft cheese), and in related brand separation and cross-licensing matters
- Twenty-First Century Fox in its \$66 billion acquisition by the Walt Disney Company and related licensing and technology arrangements
- Blackstone Group in the \$1 billion sale of its 50% stake in Universal Studios Orlando theme parks to NBC Universal, and in connection with the licensing by Universal Studios theme park of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter attraction and The Simpsons ride
- Inversiones de Guatemala, the largest rum producer in Guatemala, in its joint venture with Diageo in which Diageo purchased a 50% stake in the premium “Ron Zacapa” branded rum and corresponding product recipes, and entered into international licensing and distribution agreements with respect to this product
- Donna Karan in its sale to LVMH for \$450 million, including the assignment and license of trademark and personal name rights relating to the DONNA KARAN persona, name and marks
- Gucci in the formation of a joint venture with Stella McCartney, including the assignment and license of trademark and other intellectual property rights relating to the STELLA MCCARTNEY name and fashion designs

Intellectual Property Clearance, Prosecution, Administrative Proceedings and Litigation

Mr. Goldner assists clients in obtaining, protecting and enforcing brands, trade secrets and content in the United States and abroad, including clearance, prosecution, trademark administrative proceedings, policing, and providing general brand and content counseling. He also has represented clients in trademark infringement, trademark dilution, technology licensing, trade secret misappropriation, unfair competition, false advertising, and copyright infringement disputes and lawsuits; in domain name administrative proceedings; and in social media and mobile application challenges and takedowns.

Recognition

In recognition of his extensive *pro bono* work assisting nonprofit organizations with intellectual property matters, Mr. Goldner was honored by the Lawyers Alliance for New York with a 2022 Cornerstone Award. He has been repeatedly selected for inclusion in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* and named a Star (in both IP and Transactions) by *Managing Intellectual Property*, which also recognized him as a finalist for Practitioner of the Year in its IP Transactions category in 2024. Mr. Goldner also has been selected to the WTR 1000 by *World Trademark Review* as a leading U.S. and worldwide trademark practitioner, as well as named to *Intellectual Asset Management's* IAM Patent 1000, where he is described as a “master at executing a deep dive into target and competitor portfolios, formulating strategies, structuring deals and successfully negotiating them.” Additionally, he has been recognized by Lawdragon as one of its 500 Leading Global IP Lawyers and *Best Lawyers in America* in its Litigation — Intellectual Property category.

Publications

“IP Holding Companies: IP Protection and Enforcement,” *Practical Law The Journal*, May 2025

“To Hold or Not to Hold: Consideration in Creating an IP Holding Company,” *Westlaw*, November 20, 2020

“Film Financings and Problems In Copyright Perfection,” *New York Law Journal*, November 20, 2018

“Stock Tickers Trademarks and the Potential for Conflict,” *Law360*, December 19, 2017

“Policing in the Digital Era: Trademark Rights and Internet and Social Media,” *Bloomberg BNA's Patent, Trademark & Copyright Journal*, October 26, 2016

“New Federal Trade Secrets Act Becomes Law,” *Skadden Publication*, May 12, 2016

“Social Media Platform Agreements and Brand Risk,” *Thompson Reuters*, May 2014

“Protecting Trade Secrets and IP in Toll Manufacturing Agreements Checklist,” *Practical Law Company*, April 2013

“Toll Manufacturing Transactions: Trade Secret and IP Protection,” *Practical Law Company*, April 2013