Pillsbury’s integrated team of Intellectual Property, Litigation and Employment practice lawyers offers deep experience advising on trade secret issues and successfully resolving trade secret-related claims in and out of court.

Pillsbury lawyers represent businesses seeking to protect trade secrets and confidential information and employees, former employees and their new employers accused of misappropriation. We work with clients to develop and implement comprehensive programs to protect trade secrets and to educate employees on the importance of adhering to trade secret protection guidelines. Our lawyers also advise on and draft hiring policies and due diligence risk avoidance checklists for use when hiring key employees from competitors.

Clients also rely on us to litigate trade secret-related claims in federal and state courts, and before alternative dispute resolution tribunals. We are highly successful in obtaining emergency remedies such as preliminary injunctions and temporary restraining orders to prevent the use and dissemination of protected information. Our lawyers understand the nuances of the newly adopted Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016, the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, California Business and Professions Code Section 16600, and state unfair competition laws. We are also adept at preparing and reviewing nondisclosure, noncompetition, nonsolicitation and confidentiality agreements, and advising on their enforceability.

We have litigated trade secret claims for clients in a variety of industries, including high-tech, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, financial services, construction and manufacturing.
REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Represented Cuker Interactive LLC in a “David and Goliath” trade secret dispute involving website development for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. An Arkansas jury found that Wal-Mart misappropriated trade secrets.

Won more than $23 million in damages, injunctive relief and attorneys’ fees for Eldorado Stone, LLC against Renaissance Stone, Inc. on trade secret misappropriation, copyright and trademark infringement, and other claims.

Secured permanent injunction for LG Electronics MobileComm, preventing former employee and his new employer from using misappropriated trade secrets and obtained their agreement to destroy all material taken.

- Represented semiconductor company regarding former consultant’s misappropriation of confidential information. Won temporary restraining order. Parties subsequently entered into stipulated permanent injunction and confidential settlement.
- Representing major aviation company in theft of trade secrets suit against former regional vice president who defected to a principal competitor.
- Representing computer security company in lawsuit alleging misappropriation of data previously supplied pursuant to contract, securing successful dismissal of action by the trial court.
- Represented RetailMeNot in defending against claims of breach of contract and misappropriation of trade secrets in the U.S. District Court, District of Delaware.
- Represented a cord blood stem cell bank in a New Jersey trade secret and confidential information misappropriation action against its former regional sales manager, who took extensive confidential data to the direct competitor.

PRACTICE AREA HIGHLIGHTS


Ranked in Chambers USA for Intellectual Property in Northern Virginia (Band 2) and two IP partners ranked in Northern Virginia (2018).

Ranked in Washington, DC and Texas as one of the world’s leading IP practices across all aspects of patent law by Intellectual Asset Management’s “IAM Patent 1000” and four partners named individually (2018).
- Ranked as a “Recommended” firm for IP in four categories in California and as “Highly Recommended” in one IP category in Virginia by Managing Intellectual Property magazine (2018).

- Ranked by The Legal 500 U.S. in patent prosecution, including reexamination and post-grant proceedings (2018).

- Corporate Counsel named Pillsbury 2015 “Go-To Firm” – Intellectual Property Litigation and noted the firm as a Top-10 Intellectual Property “Go-To” Firm for Fortune 500 companies.