

**Lester N. Fortney**  
**Partner**

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## Bio

Lester N. Fortney is an intellectual property attorney with a diversified background in chemistry, chemical engineering, and mechanical engineering. Les deals primarily with the preparation and prosecution of chemical and mechanical patent applications, both in the United States and internationally. He provides not only academic expertise but also practical experience gained from real world employment.

Les received a B.S. degree in Chemistry from Messiah College and an M.A. degree in Chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin. Following graduate school, Les worked as a research chemist in Texas, primarily in the fields of surfactant chemistry and tertiary oil recovery.

Prior to attending law school at the University of Notre Dame, Les served as an officer in the United States Navy. He initially specialized in the field of Combat Systems but then was selected to attend the U.S. Navy's Engineering School, where he graduated first in his class. Following graduation, Les served in the Engineering Department of U.S.S. Fife (DD991), where he gained practical experience with mechanical, hydraulic, and propulsion systems.

Upon graduation from law school in 1993, Les joined The Webb Law Firm and has been here ever since; not for lack of other opportunities but from a sincere belief that The Webb Law Firm is truly one of the finest intellectual property law firms in the country.

Les is a past president of the Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Law Association and has given presentations on drafting patent applications to meet the challenges of prosecution not only in the United States, but in international patent jurisdictions--particularly Europe, China, the Far East, and South America. In addition, Les is experienced in preparing "freedom to operate" searches and opinions for proposed new products.

## Certification

Registered Patent Attorney, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

## Bar Admissions

Pennsylvania, 1993  
U.S. Court of Appeals Federal Circuit  
U.S. District Court Western District of Pennsylvania

## Education

Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana, 1993 J.D.  
Phi Alpha Delta, Legal Fraternity

University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, 1981 M.A.  
Major: Physical Chemistry

Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania, 1978 B.A.  
Major: Chemistry  
With Honors

## Professional Associations and Memberships

Allegheny County Bar Association  
Pennsylvania Bar Association  
American Intellectual Property Law Association  
Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Law Association, President 2014-2015  
American Chemical Society

## Past Employment Positions

United States Navy, 1985-1990  
University of Texas, Chemist, 1981-1985

### **Main Practice Areas:**

Patent Innovation  
Business Strategies  
International Practice

### **Industries Served:**

Patent Innovation: Chemical  
Patent Innovation: Mechanical