

Christopher "Kit" L. Crumbley

Partner

kit.crumbley@bracewell.com

AUSTIN

+1.512.494.3621



Christopher (Kit) Crumbley draws on his two decades of experience serving within the US Patent & Trademark Office and the Department of Justice to provide comprehensive intellectual property advice and counsel to businesses across all technology fields, with a particular focus on post-grant validity challenges and the appeals of those proceedings.

From 2012 to 2023, Kit served as an Administrative Patent Judge with the US Patent & Trademark Office's Patent Trial & Appeal Board (PTAB), including nearly seven years in PTAB leadership as a Lead Administrative Patent Judge. During his 11-year tenure with PTAB, he participated in more than 400 panels deciding the outcome of AIA petitions and *ex parte* appeals, and he personally authored over 100 decisions on institution and more than 70 final written decisions. He also frequently advised agency leadership and was deeply involved in significant PTAB and agency reform efforts, including PTAB's Consolidated Trial Practice Guide, rulemaking on motions to amend and decision-making procedures.

Prior to being appointed to PTAB, Kit served for nearly a decade as a trial attorney with the Intellectual Property Section of the Department of Justice's Civil Division, defending the government in patent litigation suits before the US Court of Federal Claims and appeals before the Federal Circuit.

Industries

[Technology](#)

Practices

[Intellectual Property](#)

[Litigation](#)

[Intellectual Property Litigation](#)

Credentials

Education

- University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., 2000
- Rice University, B.A., Chemistry and Political Science, 1997, *cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Texas
- Georgia
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Affiliations

- Law360, Intellectual Property Editorial Advisory Board, 2024 – 2025

Lawdragon Inc.

- *Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America*, IP Litigation, Patent, Post-Grant Challenges, 2025
- *Lawdragon 500 Leading Global IP Lawyers*, IP Litigation, Post-Grant Challenge, 2025

US Department of Justice

- Special Commendation for Outstanding Service to the Civil Division, 2008

University of Virginia School of Law

- *Virginia Law Review*, Articles Review Board

Resources

PTAB Workforce Bleed Could Trigger More Litigation

Article

USPTO Memorandum Bifurcating PTAB Institution Process Signals Shift Toward Increased Discretionary Denials in IPR and PGR

Update

Critical Strategic Considerations for PTAB Discretionary Denials

Article

Publications & Speeches

- "Critical Strategic Considerations for PTAB Discretionary Denials," *IAM*, June 6, 2025.
- "Trending Ethical Issues Before the PTAB," 2025 PTAB Bar Association Annual Conference, March 21, 2025.

- “PTAB Workforce Bleed Could Trigger More Litigation,” *IAM*, March 11, 2025.