



Mark Vrla counsels clients on various issues concerning patents, trade secrets, trademarks, unfair competition and copyrights. Mark is dedicated to providing legal advice that is actionable, strategic, reinforces his clients' competitive edge and optimizes their commercial agenda, market goals and bottom line.

As outside intellectual property law counsel for large and small companies, Mark works collaboratively with his clients to identify and position them effectively while also taking into consideration the challenges and opportunities they face. Mark's experience includes prosecuting U.S. and foreign patent and trademark applications, analyzing patents and providing opinions on patent infringement and validity, trademark search and clearance, litigating patent and trademark issues, and negotiating patent and trademark licenses.

He has represented clients involved in a variety of industries, including electrical and electronic components, electrical power systems, hydraulic systems, household appliances, industrial packaging equipment, aseptic and other consumer packaging, motor vehicles and components, wastewater treatment and sports equipment, among others.

A car enthusiast with an engineering background, Mark is a quick study when it comes to understanding inventions of various types, particularly mechanical ones.

Prior to attending law school, Mark worked in the commercial electric power industry for nearly 12 years. He has substantial experience in power plant design, construction, operation and maintenance. Mark's understanding of how businesses operate, particularly having worked in-house himself, helps give him insight into understanding his client's financial goals, working within existing management structures and adhering to critical deadlines.

Professional and Community Involvement

Member, BMW Car Club of America; teaches high-performance driving

Mark P. Vrla

Partner

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois College of Law,
(J.D.), magna cum laude, 1997

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign,
(B.S.), engineering, 1982

BAR ADMISSIONS

Illinois

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh
Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Central District
of Illinois

U.S. District Court for the Northern
District of Illinois

U.S. District Court for the Western
District of Michigan

LANGUAGES

English

PRACTICES

Intellectual Property

INDUSTRIES

Motorsports

skills at race tracks and other environments
