

# Thomas J. Pienkos

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## PARTNER

### Overview

Tom counsels clients on the strategic protection, licensing and enforcement of intellectual property rights both domestically and abroad. His experience includes preparing and prosecuting many U.S. and international patent applications and securing patent rights for clients in relation to a wide variety of technologies, including engine, construction, printing, commercial and residential heating and cooling, and computer-related technologies. Tom has supervised and conducted intellectual property due diligence investigations for corporate mergers, acquisitions and refinancings. He also drafts and negotiates patent license, nondisclosure and joint development agreements.

As a member of the firm's Intellectual Property Service Group, Tom represents clients in a range of industries, including transportation, commercial and residential kitchen and washroom, technologies, and industrial manufacturing. Tom leads and enjoys participating in patent review committees charged with strategically evaluating inventions for possible patent prosecution. He advises clients on policing and protecting copyright, trade dress, trade secret and trademark rights. Tom is active in the Wisconsin Intellectual Property Law Association (WIPLA) and the Wisconsin Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (WAMIC), presenting to members regarding developments with Insurance Data Security Model Law.

As a member of the Cryptocurrency, Blockchain and FinTech group, Tom has experience counseling clients in regard to patent and other intellectual property protection, and related contractual issues, in a wide array of software-implemented technologies, including the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML). Tom is registered to practice as a patent attorney before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. He is also a member of the Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Service Group.

### SERVICES

Cryptocurrency, Blockchain & FinTech

Cybersecurity & Data Privacy

Intellectual Property

Manufacturing & Food Processing

### EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Law School, J.D., 1999

University of Notre Dame, B.S.M.E., 1996, *cum laude*

### ADMISSIONS

Wisconsin

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

## Experience

Represented a Startup in the Marine Industry in Regards to the Company's Intellectual Property Matters During an Acquisition

Conducted Due Diligence and the Preparation of all Documents to Complete the Transfer of a Domain Name

Serves as Primary Outside Counsel to Manufacturer of Commercial Washroom Hardware and Sanitary Technologies

Provides Strategic Counsel for Patent Matters to a Manufacturer of Industrial Equipment

Provides Counsel for Filing in Patents and Trademark Matters

## Membership & Involvement

- Wisconsin State Bar: Board of Governors, 2021-2023; Intellectual Property Law Section Board Liaison, 2022-2023; Public Utilities Section Board of Governors Liaison, 2021-2022
- Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO): International Patent Law & Trade Committee; Trade Secrets Committee; Corporate IP Management and Operations Committee; Past Chair and Co-Chair, IP Professionals with Disabilities and Advocates Resource Group
- Board of Directors: Disability: IN Wisconsin
- Member: Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree Member; Wisconsin Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (WAMIC)
- Past President: Wisconsin Intellectual Property Law Association, 2005-2006
- Past Co-Chair: Licensing Executive Society International, Wisconsin Chapter

## Honors

- Selected to *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Patent Law: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
- Selected to *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Litigation - Intellectual Property: 2024, 2025, 2026

## Firm News

130 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2026 in America Firm News, August 21, 2025

93 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2025 in America Firm News, August 15, 2024

77 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2024 in America  
Firm News, August 17, 2023

36 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*© 2023  
Firm News, August 18, 2022

28 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*© 2022  
Firm News, August 19, 2021

24 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized in *Best Lawyers in America*© 2021  
Firm News, August 20, 2020

15 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers in America*© 2020  
Firm News, August 15, 2019

John Pienkos and Tom Pienkos Join AD's Intellectual Property Practice Group  
March 25, 2019

### In the Media

Tom Pienkos Weighs In on 2023 Trends in Intellectual Property

### Alerts

Preserving Patent Rights: Impact of Public Use on Patenting

Protect Your Company's Inventions With an Innovation Capture Program

Invention Disclosure Form: Why Does It Matter?

### Speaking Engagements

Strategic Patenting for Entrepreneurs – Going Beyond the Basic Legal  
Requirements for US Patent Application Filings  
Speaking Engagement, Center for Technology Commercialization; Webcast, April  
14, 2026

Corporate Risk Management Series: Using Intellectual Property as a Business  
Tool  
Event, Amundsen Davis, Webcast, April 1, 2026

Construction Insights Series  
Event, Amundsen Davis, Webcast, Winter 2026

Disability Inclusion @ Work Breakout Discussion  
Speaking Engagement, 2025 Disability:IN Wisconsin Annual Summit; Madison,  
WI, October 16, 2025

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Navigating the Interactive Process and Other Related Accommodation Issues: A Facilitated Discussion

Speaking Engagement, 2025 Disability:IN Wisconsin Annual Summit; Madison, WI, October 16, 2025

Protecting Innovation: Best Practices for Managing Patents and Trade Secrets Event, Amundsen Davis, Webcast, February 6, 2025

Hiring and Retaining Neurodiverse and Disabled Persons: Legal and Technology Considerations

Speaking Engagement, 2024 Disability:IN Wisconsin Summit; Seminar; Milwaukee, WI, October 17, 2024

Overview of U.S. Design Patent Protection for Some Computer Related Inventions, Including Graphic User Interfaces (GUIs) and Icons

Speaking Engagement, Beijing, China, September 18, 2024

What is Generative AI & How Does it Work?

Speaking Engagement, Brookfield, WI, September 12, 2024

Intellectual Property Overview and Key IP Protection Considerations

Speaking Engagement, Marquette University; Milwaukee, WI, February 9, 2024

Ethics Missteps in IP -- *A Moderated Discussion of Practical Ways to Address or Altogether Avoid Various IP Ethics Mistakes*

Speaking Engagement, ACC-WI; Milwaukee, WI, November 2, 2023

Cyber Security

Wisconsin Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, Leadership Retreat; Lake Geneva, WI, October 20, 2021

Hybrid, Remote and Post-Pandemic (Eventually!) Return to In-Person Work Arrangements: A Panel Discussion on Key Topics for Those with Disabilities

Intellectual Property Owners Association, Webcast, August 20, 2021

Short Course: Cybersecurity Legal Considerations for the Insurance Sector

Wisconsin Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (WAMIC); Stevens Point, Wisconsin, July 13, 2021

Your Employee Asked to Work Remotely Indefinitely (or Short Term): Important Legal Considerations Before You Say Yes

Event, Amundsen Davis, Webcast, June 23, 2021

Handling Poor Employee Performance & Behavior in a Post-Pandemic Workforce without Inviting a Lawsuit

Independent Pharmacy Cooperative; Webcast, June 16, 2021

Critical Legalese for Start-ups: Organization, Agreements and IP

Irontek, Webcast, April 28, 2020

Intellectual Property Primer and Key IP Protection Considerations  
Marquette University; Milwaukee, WI, March 7, 2020

Legal Issues for Startups and Emerging Companies  
Startup Week; Beloit, WI, November 11, 2019

### Blog Posts

Protect Your Company's Inventions With an Innovation Capture Program  
*Labor & Employment Law Update*, January 9, 2025

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