



# Department of Defense Intellectual Property Forum 2023

## **David Ridders**

*Partner, Ridders Technology Law, PLLC*



David has extensive experience working with business leaders to consistently deliver on business goals in the strategic management, use and enforcement of intellectual property (IP). He is frequently engaged in complex and consequential IP issues, in both commercial and government markets.

For over a decade, he served in the Office of General Counsel of a major defense contractor. He has favorably resolved a dozen USG-initiated technical data rights challenges, as well as intellectual property aspects of hundreds of contracts, licenses and Other Transactions. He also represented companies of all sizes as a law firm attorney for a decade, growing commercial IP portfolios and resolving disputes.

He began his career as a US Air Force officer, serving as a Chief Engineer of electronic technology procurement programs on behalf foreign governments, including Israel, the United Kingdom, Egypt, Hungary and Columbia. He later worked at the Secretary of the Air Force, Office of the General Counsel and interned at the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit for Judge Pauline Newman.

David is also engaged with the aerospace & defense industry through a capital investment firm.

### **EDUCATION**

J.D., The George Washington University Law School (1999)

B.S., Mechanical Engineering, cum laude,  
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (1991)

Architecture and System Engineering: Models & Methods to Manage Complex Systems (Prof. Cert.), Massachusetts Institute of Technology xPRO (2022)

### **BAR and COURT ADMISSIONS**

Massachusetts

US Patent and Trademark Office

US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

US District Courts of Massachusetts & Colorado

### **LAW JOURNALS**

Executive Notes Editor – American Intellectual Property Law Association Quarterly Journal

### **PUBLICATIONS**

“Court Protects Closely Guarded Vendor Lists,” National Defense, Sep. 2022, p. 18.

Working with Government chapter in book, Intellectual Property Operations and Implementation in the 21st Century Corporation, J. Wiley & Sons (2011)



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## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Successfully defended data rights challenges to retain over \$10 billion in sole source procurements. Also prevailed against data rights challenges in Other Transaction Agreement framework.
- Led teams negotiating IP licenses of technology, data, software and services with customers and suppliers. Drafted licenses enabling \$100 million in commercial software licensing, including resolution of USG end user license compliance disputes.
- Lead attorney initiating litigation against the US Army at the Court of Federal Claims, successfully protecting vendor lists as proprietary business data.
- IP Monetization Team leadership, securing high value licenses and conducting an IP Monetization Workshop on licensing fundamentals with 350 participants.
- Led successful trademark opposition defense and negotiation of settlement with the US Army while securing global trademark protection for a significant product mark.
- General Counsel to engineering function of 15,000 engineers and software developers in a business with customers and suppliers in 50 countries and \$16 billion in annual revenue. Developed and implemented strategies for engineering efforts for Independent Research and Development (IR&D) and bidding highly competitive procurements.
- Policy lead for government procurement IP issues at a major defense contractor. Participant in Defense Acquisition Regulation (DAR) Council public meetings. Led discussions with House Armed Services Committee staffers on legislative issues.
- Nominated to U.S. Navy Data Rights Tiger Team established by Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition.
- Led IP strategy for offset, localization and non-US based subsidiaries, joint ventures, M&A, as well as development/co-development efforts and associated tax strategies at a major defense contractor. Led company-wide Data Rights Working Group.
- Reformed patent procurement process and refocused filing strategy consistent with business competitive interests while reducing costs.
- Built and managed large patent portfolios of thousands of cases for Fortune 50 clients. Managed law firm attorneys and staff nationwide. Personally drafted 200+ patents.