

Jeffrey E. Depp, Esq.

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Summary

Attorney and policy researcher with doctoral training in public and international affairs and professional experience in intellectual property, competition policy, technology commercialization, and the pharmaceutical industry. Developed professional training and mentored scientists and commercialization staff in intellectual property law and new venture formation. Research examines American innovation through Austrian economics, emphasizing how legal and policy institutions shape entrepreneurship and competition. Teaching interests connect legal practice, policy analysis, and industry experience through applied cases and examination of competing perspectives.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS: Public policy analysis; political economy and international trade; intellectual property and competition policy; innovation and entrepreneurship; administrative governance; nonprofit law and governance.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE: 15+ years in intellectual property and transactional practice, including university licensing, sponsored research, clinical trial agreements, and appellate amicus briefs.

IP & INDUSTRY EXPERTISE: Assessed 175+ technologies and filed more than 100 patent applications, with experience developing commercialization partnerships and university spinouts. Pharmaceutical industry experience spans manufacturing, scientific communication, sales, and marketing.

POLICY EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE: Senior Counsel for Law & Policy at the Committee for Justice and founder and executive director of Center ICE Policy. AUTM policy committee service since 2016, including chairmanship of the Legal Task Force from 2019–2022.

COMPETENCIES: Life Science Technologies; Digital Technologies; IP Portfolio Management; Technology Commercialization; Pharmaceutical Industry; Policy Research & Analysis; IP Law & Policy; Patent Protection & Litigation; Antitrust Law; Competition Policy; Administrative Law; Stakeholder Relations; Drafting and Negotiating Legal Agreements; Alliance Management; Project Management; Government Affairs; Regulatory Compliance; Risk Management; Communication; and Collaboration

Education

- **Ph.D., Public & International Affairs (Expected Fall 2026)** – UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Dissertation Title: *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of American Innovation: An Austrian Economics Perspective*
- **J.D., Intellectual Property & Tax Law** – DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
- **M.S., Industrial Administration (MBA)** – CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
- **B.S., Chemical & Biomedical Engineering** – CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Legal / Professional Experience

HILLCREST INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SERVICES – *Pittsburgh, PA and Washington, D.C.*

2023-Present

Principal & Intellectual Property Attorney

Deliver legal advice in a transactions-based practice focused on forming partnerships for development and commercialization of innovative technologies and services. Provide strategic counsel and IP management services to startup and early-stage companies as well as independent inventors in the field of life science and digital healthcare.

- Lead technological assessments, perform due diligence and freedom-to-operate analyses, advise on business development and licensing agreements, and handle all aspects of intellectual property protection.
- Advise on minimizing litigation risk and manage active cases.
- Evaluate and advise on the impact of current intellectual property and competition policies on future plans/goals.
- Perform all the administrative functions of the practice.

MERCK & CO., INC. – *Washington D.C.*

2024-2025

Agreement Specialist, Merck Research Laboratories, Global Clinical Trial Operations

Engaged to structure, assess, negotiate, and approve agreements necessary to carry out clinical trials for pharmaceutical and vaccine products in development in the EMEA region. These agreements included IP and data processing provisions.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH INNOVATION INSTITUTE – *Pittsburgh, PA*

2015-2021

Intellectual Property Manager – Technology Commercialization

Headed a team of talented professionals dedicated to the protection and commercialization of innovative new technologies developed at the university, ranging from early-stage research to new venture formation. Partnered with outside counsel to set strategy and tactics for IP protection while maintaining Bayh-Dole compliance. Structured, negotiated, and drafted licensing, option, data use, sponsored research, and confidentiality agreements across all departments at the university.

- Led due diligence and business development on complex transactions in partnership with the commercialization arm of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) and various pharma/biotech companies.
- Managed preparation and submission of patents, including working with outside counsel on prosecution activities; proved instrumental in securing 35 U.S. patents/trademarks for the university.
- Oversaw the drafting of all legal documents pertaining to new technology commercialization, including patent prosecution, IP policy, project management, business development, and university procedures.
- Headed projects focused on identifying, assessing, developing, and commercializing new IP created at the school.
- Facilitated and led the spinout of four university-licensed startups, which secured an average of \$11M each in equity investment; drafted and negotiated the licenses and three sets of equity agreements.
- Planned and secured more than \$60M in funding for 50+ Immune Transplant & Therapy Center projects.
- Identified and launched 15 Pittsburgh Health Data Alliance projects at the university, representing ~\$15M in funding.
- Administered \$6M in funds to support eight Master Innovation Seed Fund drug and diagnostic research projects.
- Collaborated cross-functionally to implement best practices and process improvements focused on licensing, data management, and legal requirements/compliance.
- Trained and mentored team members on drafting legal documents, project management, business development, and patent prosecution; instructed staff on university policies and procedures.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT – WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA – *Pittsburgh, PA*

2014-2015

Chambers of the Hon. Nora Barry Fischer – Patent Pilot Program

Supported the judge during civil litigation, specializing in complex IP cases. Made contributions in motions practice, discovery disputes, settlement conferences, and all courtroom proceedings, including claim construction. Reviewed briefs collaboratively and researched relevant legal cases/statutes. Drafted bench memoranda, orders, opinions, and other legal documents.

JONES, GREGG, CREEHAN & GERACE, LLP – *Pittsburgh, PA*

2011-2014

Of Counsel

Provided quality legal counsel in both litigation and transactional settings. Drafted complaints, answers, motions, responses, jury instructions, articles of incorporation, bylaws, and various contracts, including vendor, confidentiality, sponsorship, license, and data. Took and defended depositions.

- Advised C-suite leaders in articulating operating policies and procedures for both corporate and not-for-profit entities.
- Represented clients during the negotiation of debt settlements, saving thousands of dollars per assignment.

MERCK & CO., INC. – *PA, OH, VA*

2001-2014

Medical Science Liaison, Allergy & Immunology

Led peer-level scientific discussions with key opinion leaders (KOLs) to develop advocacy and business strategies. Acted as liaison between headquarters, IP, research, marketing personnel, and KOLs, working to advance the \$5B global respiratory brand.

- Served as the key point-of-contact for respiratory diseases with the UPMC and the Cleveland Clinic (CCF); coordinated partnerships that led to six joint research projects worth \$3M+.
- Contributed to the cross-functional materials review committee to assess and ensure OPDP compliance.
- Organized and managed monthly scientific and medical conferences.

PRIOR: MERCK & CO., INC., **Professional Sales Representative**: Drove successful product launches while generating above-plan sales for eight consecutive years, significantly growing revenue and market share in the region. Developed impactful and informative training and educational material, covering product details and benefits.

MERCK & CO., INC., **Manufacturing Technical Support Specialist**: Developed a first-of-its-kind production record system that fully integrated with DCS process control software; achieved positive variance with zero regulatory violations.

Policy Experience

CENTER FOR INNOVATION, COMPETITION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP POLICY 2024-Present
Founder & Executive Director

- Established the organization to bring together diverse stakeholders, including inventors, engineers, patent attorneys, manufacturers, entrepreneurs, investors, and more in order to advance American technological innovation.
- Define strategic vision and core values of the organization and lead a multidisciplinary team in monitoring and analyzing legislative, regulatory, and judicial developments in IP law.

COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE (CFJ) 2023-Present
Senior Counsel for Law & Policy

- Organize and guide coalition-building efforts with allied organizations to develop unified positions on key antitrust reform issues and mobilize public support, particularly where they intersect with intellectual property matters.
- Head the organization's Alliance on Antitrust project, dedicated to opposing the use of antitrust laws as political tools while championing the consumer welfare standard.
- Analyze laws, trends, and policy to prepare reports/briefs for legislators, regulators, and other key stakeholders.

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY MANAGERS (AUTM) 2016-Present
Member, Public Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC)

- Collaborate externally with federal and state-level policymakers to draft and influence the development of legislative and regulatory proposals.

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY MANAGERS (AUTM) 2016-2026
Member, Public Policy Legal Task Force (PPLTF); Chair (2019-2022)

- Led a team of 12 volunteers serving as the gatekeeper on all legal policy matters relevant to the AUTM mission and making concise, substantive and timely recommendations to the AUTM board.
- Oversaw AUTM's patent litigation strategy and tactics including amicus activity.
- Researched and drafted the organization's responses to national matters of public policy related to IP and technology commercialization.
- Collaborated externally with federal and state-level policymakers to draft and influence the development of legislative and regulatory proposals.

CENTER FOR STRATEGIC & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (CSIS) 2024-2025
Consultant, Renewing American Innovation Project

- Analyzed IP law issues, produced scholarship, and led policy analyses/advocacy on the importance of innovation and technology commercialization, particularly in the biopharmaceutical sector.
- Drafted comments on the Interagency Guidance Framework for Considering the Exercise of March-In Rights in 2024 while creating blog content and whitepapers on various other topics.

CENTER FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY X INNOVATION POLICY (C-IP2), GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY 2022-2025
Thomas Edison Innovation Law and Policy Fellow

- Conducted research on the relationship between Austrian economics, intellectual property, competition, and entrepreneurship. Preparing a manuscript for submission in Fall 2026.

PHRMA

2023

Senior Director, Intellectual Property

- Advocated for public policies that encouraged development of important new medicines for patients.
- Served as a subject matter expert (SME) for IP, educating key stakeholders on positions related to legislative and regulatory issues involving intellectual property, innovation, and antitrust.
- Defined engagement strategies to achieve desired policy outcomes while collaborating with third-party groups on IP matters important for members.

Leadership Experience

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY MANAGERS (AUTM)

2019-2022

Chair, Public Policy Legal Task Force

- Led a 12-member volunteer legal-policy task force reviewing matters affecting intellectual property and technology commercialization and developing substantive recommendations for AUTM's board.
- Oversaw patent-litigation and amicus strategy and contributed to responses to federal policy proposals.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH INNOVATION INSTITUTE – Pittsburgh, PA

2017-2021

Intellectual Property Manager – Technology Commercialization

- Led a staff of 2 talented professionals dedicated to the protection and commercialization of innovative new technologies developed at the university, ranging from early-stage research to new venture formation.
- Developed and implemented training and mentoring in intellectual property law and new venture formation for scientists entering the field of technology commercialization.

MERCK & CO, INC.

1991-1993

Assistant Process Supervisor

- Managed an administrative assistant in the creation and cataloging of the integrated production record system for a newly implemented DCS-controlled bulk active pharmaceutical chemical production process.

MERCK & CO, INC.

1989-1991

Production Supervisor

- Managed 7 collective bargaining unit employees in the production of both small and large molecule APIs with zero formal grievances.

Awards

- **Volunteer of the Year**, Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) (2022)

Licenses & Credentials

- U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (74053)
- Pennsylvania Bar (208411)

Affiliations & Organizations

- Center for Innovation, Competition & Entrepreneurship Policy (Center ICE Policy)
 - Committee for Justice (CFJ)
 - Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM)
 - Licensing Executives Society (LES)
 - Q. Todd Dickinson IP Inn of Court
 - Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Law Society
 - The Federalist Society, IP Executive Committee
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Presentations

LECTURES

- *Current Legal and Policy Challenges Impacting the Use of AI in Medicine*, 20th Annual International Asthma Conference at Nemacolin, Nov. 2025.
- *What's New in Washington, DC: What You Need to Know*, AUTM Eastern Regional Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, Sep. 2024.
- *What's New in Washington, DC: What You Need to Know*, AUTM Central Regional Meeting, Louisville, KY, Jul. 2024.

WEBINARS

- *When should we recognize something as a property right?* (Panelist), The Federalist Society, May 2026.
- *Prosecution Laches: No Good Deed Goes Unpunished!* (Moderator), The Federalist Society, Apr. 2025.
- *Patent Owners in the Soup... No Injunction for You!* (Moderator), The Federalist Society, Aug. 2024.
- *Is the National Institute of Standards and Technology's New Proposal on March-in a Price-Control Vehicle?* (Moderator), The Federalist Society, May 2024.
- *NIST Proposed Framework for a New Approach to Bayh-Dole March-in: What you Need to Know* (Moderator), The Federalist Society, Feb. 2024.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- *What Comes Next? American Competitiveness in the Next Administration* (Panelist) BIO Intellectual Property Counsels Committee Conference, Washington, DC, Nov. 2024.
- *The U.S. Biopharma Innovation Ecosystem: The Good Bad and the Ugly* (Moderator), IP Watchdog Life Science Masters, Ashburn VA, Oct. 2024.
- *Manipulating the Status Quo: How Weak Legislation Perpetuates Corporate Control*, US Inventor Annual Conference, Alexandria, VA, Sep. 2024.
- *Will the RESTORE Act Revive Injunctive Relief?* US Inventor Annual Conference, Alexandria, VA, Sep. 2024.
- *Protect U.S. Innovation from Government Confiscation* (Panelist), U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Alliance to Stop Innovation Confiscation (BASIC) Coalition Launch Event, Washington, DC, Mar. 2024.
- *The CRISPR Patent Wars: Implications for Human Use* (Panelist), IP Watchdog Life Science Masters, Ashburn VA, Oct. 2023.

Publications

OP-EDS/ANALYSES

- ***The Epistemic Court: Why Deleting 'Climate Science' Protects Judicial Legitimacy***, RealClearEnergy.org, September 24, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***Certified Uncertain: Why AI Safety Needs Assurance Tests, Not Permission Slips***, TruthontheMarket.com, September 4, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***Pennsylvania's Data-Center Permission System: When GRID Becomes Command***, NatLawReview.com, August 27, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***The Data Center Chessboard Has No Pause Button***, TruthontheMarket.com, August 13, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***The Trophy-Sharing Cartel: How Europe's Digital Markets Act Turns Google's IP into a Public Utility***, IPWatchdog.com, July 27, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***A Patent, a Blood Test, and 20 Years of Waiting***, TruthontheMarket.com, July 16, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***The Fatal Conceit Gets a GPU Cluster: Bernie Sanders' Plan to Socialize AI***, TruthontheMarket.com, July 3, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***Readers React: What to Expect After the Supreme Court's Hikma Ruling***, IPWatchdog.com, June 8, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***Pennsylvania's GRID Standards and the Fatal Conceit of AI Industrial Policy***, NatLawReview.com, June 8, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***Artificial Intelligence, Natural Ignorance***, TruthontheMarket.com, June 5, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***Powering AI: Why Markets Matter More Than Mandates***, NatLawReview.com, May 19, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***Hot Takes: What the Oral Arguments in Hikma/ Amarin Revealed***, IPWatchdog.com, April 30, 2026. Available [here](#).

- ***The Supreme Court Picks the Wrong Patent Fight in Hikma v. Amarin***, IPWatchdog.com, April 20, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***Too Much Order Too Soon: The Case Against AI Term Sheets***, TruthontheMarket.com, April 17, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***The Fatal Conceit of Cheap Drugs***, TruthontheMarket.com, April 6, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***Borrowed Prices: Pharmaceuticals and the American Tab***, TruthontheMarket.com, February 25, 2026. Available [here](#).
- ***Europe Cannot Legislate Technological Supremacy***, RealClearMarkets.com, Nov. 14, 2025. Available [here](#).
- ***NIH 'Access Plan' Mandate: Central Planning by Another Name***, TruthontheMarket.com, Oct. 17, 2025. Available [here](#).
- ***Don't Tax Innovation: The Patent 'Wealth Tax' Is a Terrible Idea***, NationalReview.com, Sep. 29, 2025. Available [here](#).
- ***A Better Way to RESTORE Injunctive Relief? The Federal Circuit Had the Answer***, IPWatchdog.com, Oct. 10, 2024. Available [here](#).
- ***Securing IP and the Future of Pandemic Preparedness***, Center for Strategic & International Studies, Perspectives on Innovation Blog, May 28, 2024. Available [here](#).
- ***Securing the U.S. Biopharma Innovation System against Bad Ideas***, Center for Strategic & International Studies, Perspectives on Innovation Blog, Mar. 7, 2024. Available [here](#).
- ***Biden Administration Moves Ahead with Its Unconstitutional Drug Pricing Regime That is Doomed to Fail***, IPWatchdog.com, Oct. 9, 2023. Available [here](#).

WHITEPAPERS

- ***Understanding the U.S. Biopharmaceutical Innovation Ecosystem***, Center for Strategic & International Studies, August 15, 2024. Available [here](#).

AMICUS BRIEFS

- *Newman v. Moore* SCOTUS (Certiorari) (2026)
- *Epic v. Google* CA 9 (Stay of Injunction) (2025)
- *Epic v. Google* CA 9 (Rehearing) (2025)
- *Epic v. Google* SCOTUS (Stay of Injunction) (2025)
- *Epic v. Google* SCOTUS (Certiorari) (2025)
- *Parker Vision v. TCL Industries* CAFC (2024)
- *In re Cellect* CAFC (2023)
- *Juno v. Kite* SCOTUS (2022)
- *Amgen v. Sanofi* SCOTUS (2022)
- *American Axle v. Neapco* SCOTUS (2021)
- *Omni MedSci v. Apple* CAFC (2021)

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY COMMENTS & OTHER EXECUTIVE BRANCH COMMUNICATIONS

- FTC Proposed Enforcement Policy Statement Regarding Personalized Pricing (2026)
- CMS Global Benchmark for Efficient Drug Pricing (GLOBE) and Guarding U.S. Medicare Against Rising Drug Costs (GUARD) Models (2026)
- USTR Foreign Nations Freeloading on American-Financed Innovation RFC (2025)
- USPTO Revision to Rules of Practice Before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board NPRM (2025)
- OSTP Accelerating the American Scientific Enterprise RFI (2025)
- NIST Draft Interagency Guidance Framework for Considering the Exercise of March-In Rights RFI (2024)
- USPTO Translating Innovation to the Marketplace RFC (2024)
- NIH Draft IM Research Policy: Access Planning RFI (2024)
- USPTO Inventorship for AI-Assisted Inventions RFC (2024)
- USPTO PTAB Practices NPRM (2024)
- USPTO Terminal Disclaimer Practice NPRM (2024)
- USPTO Impact of AI on Prior Art & PHOSITA RFC (2024)
- USPTO AI & SME RFC (2024)
- Letter to Congress re the PREVAIL Act (2023)
- USCO AI and Copyright RFC (2023)
- Letter to Agencies re Joint ITA–NIST–USPTO Collaboration Initiative re Standards (2023)

- Letter to the Administration re Draft Policy Statement on SEP Licensing (2022)
- OSTP Update of the National Artificial Intelligence Research & Development Strategic Plan RFI (2022)
- AUTM's Response to NYT Editorial on Patent System (2022)
- Letter to the President re Expansion of TRIPS Waiver (2022)
- Letter to Congress re the Pride in Patent Ownership Act (2022)
- Letter to ULC re state-level antitrust liability for SEP licensing (2021)
- NIST Bayh-Dole NPRM (2021)
- Letter to the President re TRIPS Waiver (2021)
- Letter to President re Section 101 Reform in Response to Letter from ACLU (2021)
- NIST iEdison RFI (2020)
- USPTO Protecting AI Innovations RFC (2020)
- PTAB Institution Discretion (NHK-Fintiv Framework) NPRM (2020)
- NIST ROI Green Paper (2019)
- USPTO Protecting AI Inventions RFC (2019)
- USPTO PTAB Institution on All Claims NPRM (2019)
- NIST ROI Initiative RFC (2018)