

## KRISTEN F. JOHNS

Partner



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Kristen Johns is a transactional patent attorney in the firm's Intellectual Property Practice Group. Kristen's experience intersects privacy, security, technology, and intellectual property, and she leads the firm's distributed ledger/blockchain practice. As a registered patent attorney, Kristen helps clients protect and maximize their intellectual property assets and advises clients on a broad range of issues, including patent and trademark strategies, data privacy and security matters, cybersecurity and cloud-related issues with a particular focus on issues related to emerging technologies. Throughout her career, Kristen has served the following industries:

- Healthcare
- Life Sciences
- Emerging Technologies
- Aerospace
- Retail
- Manufacturing

As a patent attorney who has managed intellectual property portfolios in-house, Kristen understands her clients' intellectual property and transactional needs, and remains passionately engaged to achieve their strategic objectives. Clients praise her for her ability to stay ahead of the curve and get the job done.

Hospital systems as well as companies involved in healthcare information technology and life sciences value the experience Kristen brings to strategic business and operational issues. In addition to extensive experience in trademark, copyright, and patent licensing and protection, Kristen's insight is critically important to negotiating and structuring contractual relationships with respect to:

- Strategic alliances and collaboration agreements
- Intellectual property licensing and related agreements
- Data privacy and security rights
- HIPAA and patient privacy
- Compliance with regulatory standards governing protected health information, electronic health records, and medical devices
- Software licensing
- SaaS agreements
- Managing IP portfolios

Before joining Waller, Kristen was General Counsel for a start-up life sciences company where she structured and negotiated numerous multi-million dollar collaboration agreements and commercial alliances in addition to managing the company's intellectual property portfolio. More recently Kristen served as Assistant General Counsel at Emdeon (now Change Healthcare), a leading provider of revenue and payment cycle solutions. In this role she advised product development teams on a broad range of matters, including building the corporate patent program, intellectual property protection, branding and marketing, HIPAA compliance, and customer and third party vendor contracts.

Throughout her career, Kristen has negotiated and managed the implementation of numerous license and strategic development agreements as well as other complex corporate transactions involving software and technology transfer and strategic IP asset acquisitions. She has also developed and implemented comprehensive in-house patent programs, policies, and procedures related to the data and security issues facing her healthcare clients.

## Education

- J.D., Saint Louis University School of Law, 2000
  - American Jurisprudence Award for Patent Law
  - Managing Editor, *Saint Louis University Law Journal*
- B.S., Vanderbilt University, Engineering Science, Minor in Chemistry, Management Technology, 1995
  - Order of the Engineer

## Bar Admissions

- Tennessee
- Missouri
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

## Professional

- Member, United States Patent Bar
- Member, Tennessee Bar and Missouri Bar Associations
- Member, Licensing Executive Society
- Member, American Health Lawyers Association
- Member, International Association of Privacy Professionals

## Prior Affiliations

- Assistant General Counsel, Emdeon, Nashville, Tenn., 2012 - 2014
- Private Practice, 2008 - 2012
- General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Orion Genomics, LLC, St. Louis, Mo. 2002 - 2008
- Associate, Suelthaus & Walsh, PC, St. Louis, Mo., 2000 - 2002
- Sales and Marketing Representative, Bethlehem Steel Corp., 1995 - 1997

## Community

- Member, Board of Directors, The Thisbe and Noah Scott Foundation
- Legal Clinic Co-Director, The Martha O'Bryan Center

## Articles

- "Myths about data regulation (and why you shouldn't believe them)," Kristen Johns in Nashville Business Journal
- "Blockchain Basics: Overview of Distributed Ledger Technology, Application in Health Care, and Legal Considerations," Co-authored by Kristen F. Johns, AHLA Business Law & Governance
- "The Wild West of Blockchain" Kristen Johns on the Future of Health Health:Further Podcast
- "Blockchain's Promise and Hurdles" Kristen Johns on the Nashville Post Magazine
- "Blockchain Technology and Applications for Healthcare" Kristen Johns on the Nashville Medical News blog
- "Introduction to Blockchain Technology for the Financial Sector" Kristen Johns on Alabama Bankers Association Board Briefs
- Kristen Johns Posts, "FDA Takes On 2016's Ubiquitous Issue: Cybersecurity" on Waller Healthcare Blog
- Kristen Johns Post "Extension of Public Comment Period Speaks to Impact of NIST's Healthcare-Focused Cybersecurity Guide" in Waller Healthcare Blog
- Kristen Johns' article in Advance Healthcare gives helpful pointers on developing and commercializing innovations
- Kristen Johns Posts "Creating a Mutually Beneficial Relationship between Innovators and Institutions" in Waller Healthcare Blog
- Kristen Johns Posts "Considerations for Hospitals and Health Systems on Commercializing Innovations" in Waller Healthcare Blog

## Bulletins

- To Qualify for Liability Safe Harbor, Internet Service Providers Must Now Register Designated Agents Online
- New Tennessee Law Mandates Notification of Data Breaches Involving Encrypted Data
- The Interoperability Requirements of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015

## Media Mentions

- "Should you be ready for GDPR?" Kristen Johns quoted in Hotel Business
- "US hotel industry works to understand, comply with GDPR," Kristen Johns quoted in Hotel News Now
- "Europe's GDPR privacy law is coming: Here's what U.S. health orgs need to know," Kristen Johns quoted in Healthcare IT News
- "Blockchain: Will Gov. Haslam affix his name to electronic transactions amendment?," Kristen Johns quoted in Venture Nashville Connections

- "Blockchain: Will Gov. Haslam affix his name," Kristen Johns quoted in Venture Nashville Connections
- "Bitcoin platform piques interest in how to transfer health care data" Kristen Johns quoted in the Tennessean

## Events

- State of your Blockchain in Healthcare
- "Legal with ICOs and Regulations," Women in Blockchain, University of California - Irvine
- "21CCSS Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker," 21st Century Cardiothoracic Surgical Society, Cancun, Mexico
- Distributed: Health 2017: Clearing the Way for the Internet of Clinical Things
- Health:Further: Blockchain Investing
- Amazing Women in Blockchain + Current Blockchain Events
- Kristen Johns presenting "The Winding Legal Road to Building a Blockchain Application" at Blockchain in Law Conference
- Healthcare Data Security & Compliance Straight Talk: Helpful Answers to Costly Problems
- "Empowering Consumers" Kristen Johns - Panelist, Distributed Health: The Inaugural Blockchain Conference for the Healthcare Industry
- Submission to ONC/NIST Blockchain in Healthcare Competition: Unleash the Data: Blockchain Technology and the Potential for Its Use in Health IT