

# using his intellect

Frank Scutch has established himself as an expert in the often murky area of intellectual property



FRANK SCUTCH

For Frank Scutch (Hooker Class, 1993), law school was a way for him to get ahead in his career. Cooley Law School seemed to be the quickest way for him to accomplish that goal.

Scutch had worked in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office in Washington, D.C., for seven years and

intellectual property issues in telecommunications and computer arts. Scutch felt that he needed more challenges and opportunities in his career, and a legal education made sense.

“You can do a lot more with your law degree,” he said. “Cooley was great because I could clerk and get through law school in less than three years and get back to the career (which was) the whole reason I went.”

Following graduation, Scutch landed a job with a boutique law firm in Fort Lauderdale handling only intellectual property. He had been there about a year when he received a call from Motorola. Executives at the large company remembered Scutch from his years at the Patent Office.

The call from Motorola was a welcomed distraction since he was more involved in the trials and tribulations of litigation work than he wanted to be.

The corporation flew Scutch from Florida to Chicago to interview and he soon had a job with the company. He is now Senior Intellectual Property Counsel for Motorola, Inc.

Scutch’s work is varied. He can be working with inventors to patent new technology, then he might be meeting with business groups seeking to collaborate with other companies. He is involved in licensing agreements, and development contracts for new products, as well as enforcement activities involving those who try to copy Motorola products. In addition, he also manages the office in Florida.

Because of his expertise, Scutch was sought out by Nova

Southeastern University Law School, and now serves as an adjunct professor teaching a patent elective.

He sometimes likes to combine the two jobs. “Part of the fun of teaching classes is telling war stories.”

Scutch feels he’s prepared to work every day.

“One of the great things Cooley gave me, is they make you take all these classes you think you’re never going to use. You’d be surprised how much these things come up in real life.”

Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code is just one of those items, he said. Secured Transactions, with Professor Charles Senger; Sales, with Professor Larry Morgan, Remedies, and Tax, all still play a role in his daily work life.

What Scutch really likes is the hands-on aspect of his job.

“One thing is, I get to play with all the new products, the new gizmos.”

Then he determines how to protect the item, and deals with such elements as patent protection, trademark issues, copyrights, and trade secrets.

Scutch also has become a trained pilot and has managed to combine that activity with his work — although not always without incident.

One time, Scutch was flying his Beech Bonanza around a house while shooting aerial photography. After landing, he was quickly approached by FAA authorities inquiring about his activities. Although he wasn’t cited for any violation, Scutch said all he could think about was a case where a pilot had flown low around a Dupont chemical plant taking aerial shots and got into trouble for misappropriation of trade secrets.

Scutch’s days in the sunshine of Florida might be giving way to the winds of Chicago. He has proven to be so valuable to Motorola that he should be relocated to Motorola headquarters to take on even greater responsibilities. Moving up the ladder would put the Scutch family, including wife Stacy, a paralegal originally from Grand Rapids, and baby Abby, 1, back in the Midwest. Frank Scutch can be reached at [frank.scutch@motorola.com](mailto:frank.scutch@motorola.com). ■