

Judge Kaylan Deshpande

Judge Deshpande received a J.D. degree from The Ohio State University, Michael Moritz College of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from Case Western Reserve University. Judge Deshpande, subsequent to his graduation from college, worked for Accenture. During and after law school, he worked at the early-stage food services company Viands Concerted, LLC. He then joined the United States Patent and Trademark Office as a Patent Examiner before joining the Board in 2008 as a Patent Judge.

Judge Susan Mitchell

Judge Mitchell earned a J.D. degree from The University of Tennessee College of Law, with high honors, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry, with highest honors, from The University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Judge Mitchell served as a Law Clerk for the Honorable R. Allan Edgar, Federal District Judge, at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, followed by time as an Associate at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, before serving as a Law Clerk for the Honorable Giles S. Rich, Circuit Judge, at the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Following her clerkship with Circuit Judge Rich, Judge Mitchell joined the Department of Justice where she served first as a line attorney, and later, as an Assistant Director for the Intellectual Property Section, Commercial Litigation Branch, Civil Division. Judge Mitchell currently serves as a Lead Judge for the Patent Trial and Appeal Board.

Judge Michael R. Zecher

The Honorable Michael R. Zecher has been employed at the USPTO in various capacities since 2006. He has served as an Administrative Patent Judge at the PTAB since 2011—the last year and half of which he has served as a Lead Administrative Patent Judge. He was a Patent Attorney at the BPAI (the predecessor of the PTAB) from 2009–2011. He was a Patent Examiner that reviewed patent applications in the field of business methods from 2006–2009. Prior to joining the USPTO, he served as a law clerk for Magistrate Judge Craig B. Shaffer of the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. He received an LL.M. in Intellectual Property from the George Washington University in 2008, a J.D. from the University of Denver—Sturm College of Law in 2006, and B.S. in Genetics from the University of Georgia in 2002.

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