

October 24, 2023

MELVIN GARNER RECEIVES HIGHEST AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ASSOCIATION

WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK — Melvin Garner, a partner at Leason Ellis LLP, was recently presented with the Excellence Award by the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) at its Annual Meeting in Washington DC. The Excellence Award, the AIPLA's highest award, is bestowed to individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of intellectual property law. Mel Garner is well-deserving of this esteemed acknowledgment.

Mel is a former President of the AIPLA. In 2005, he was elected the first Black President of the Association. In his work on the Board of Directors for the AIPLA, Mel was instrumental in creating The Foundation for Advancement of Diversity in IP Law, which has given out more than \$2.5 million in scholarships. In 2020, the AIPLA named him a "Titan of the IP Bar."

With an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from Drexel University and a master's degree in electrical engineering from New York University, Mel started his legal career drafting patent applications for Bell Labs while also taking classes at Brooklyn Law School. Upon graduation, Mel joined a then formidable intellectual property law boutique firm and has worked in private practice for almost fifty years.

David Leason, the Managing Partner of Leason Ellis, has worked with Mel since their days together at Darby & Darby, one of the pre-eminent IP law firms during its time. According to David, "I was thrilled when Mel joined us about a decade ago. He is one of the most well-respected patent attorneys across the nation and abroad. He is also so well-trusted internally that he serves as our ethics partner to provide us with his guidance and wisdom in dealing with issues of professional responsibility."

In addition to his work with the AIPLA, Mel is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Hon. William C. Conner Inn of Court. He also serves on the Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel for the Southern District of New York.

About Leason Ellis

Located in White Plains, just outside New York City, Leason Ellis manages global patent, trademark and copyright portfolios and litigates intellectual property disputes for clients of all sizes, including Fortune 100 corporations. The firm has been ranked as one of the nation's leading IP law firms by IP Today, IAM Patent 1000 and World Trademark Review, and many of its lawyers have been recognized by Super Lawyers and Who's Who Legal. Learn more at www.leasonellis.com.

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