

Panel Session

Myths, Rumors, and the Law: Patentability of Machine Learning and Image Analysis Technology

Panelists: Jo Dale Carothers, Eric Caligiuri, and Jeffrey J. Rodriguez

Recently, the courts and the United States Patent and Trademark Office have determined that a wide range of algorithms and related computer-based technologies are unpatentable. These decisions have left inventors confused as to whether their inventions are patentable. This is particularly the case in areas such as image analysis and machine learning, where the inventions are often algorithmic in nature and the only hardware consists of standard devices, such as computers, cameras, and other sensors. Rumors and myths abound regarding what is and is not patentable under the current law. This panel will discuss these myths and rumors as well as strategies for protecting intellectual property.



Jo Dale Carothers received the BSEE, MSEE, and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and the JD degree from the University of Arizona. Jo Dale is an intellectual property litigator, registered patent attorney, and chair of Weintraub Tobin's IP group. Prior to becoming an attorney, Jo Dale was a tenured professor of ECE at The University of Arizona. Jo Dale has a nationwide practice and has been repeatedly named a San Diego Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers Magazine, and was named to the 2018 list of The Best Lawyers in America® for Intellectual Property Litigation.



Eric Caligiuri received a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, San Diego, and an MS in Materials Engineering from California State University, Northridge. He then received his JD from University of San Diego, Law School. His practice focuses on patent and trade secret litigation. He has experience representing companies in a wide range of technical fields in courts across the country. He is also admitted to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and handles patent and trademark prosecution. He has been named an Intellectual Property Litigation "Rising Star" by San Diego Super Lawyers from 2015-2017. Prior to attending law school, Eric worked as an engineer.



Jeffrey J. Rodriguez received the BSEE and PhD degrees from The University of Texas at Austin and the MSEE degree from M.I.T. Since 1990 he has been a professor at The University of Arizona in Tucson, where he is director of the Signal and Image Laboratory (SaIL). He served as General Chair of SSIAI 2016 and General Chair of ICIP 2007. He also served on the IEEE Signal Processing Society Technical Committee on Image, Video, and Multidimensional Signal Processing and as Associate Editor of the *IEEE Trans. on Image Processing*.