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Kilpatrick Townsend's Tom Franklin Named a Lawyer of the Year by *Law Week Colorado*

DENVER, CO (December 17) – [Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton](#) announced today that **Tom Franklin**, a partner specializing in patent prosecution and IP strategy in the internationally recognized Intellectual Property Department, was recognized as a Lawyer of the Year by *Law Week Colorado*. Mr. Franklin was honored along with fellow attorneys Mike Drapkin and John Posthumus, for their successful effort to bring a patent office to Denver.

Mr. Franklin was the project lead on the current team that helped Denver become one of only four cities to land a new U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, which is due to open in about a year. He worked countless hours over the last eight years to fulfill his vision of multiple patent offices to make it easier and faster for inventors and businesses that pursue patents to protect their innovation. Expansion beyond the patent office in Washington, D.C., was seen as a crucial step to having the best examiners available to evaluate patents.

This huge victory for Denver and Colorado was the result of years of *pro bono* effort organized with the team under the IP section of the Colorado Bar Association. Mr. Franklin and his colleagues worked closely on this effort with Colorado's Congressional delegation, the Governor's Office, and state economic development officials to convince the USPTO to open satellite offices in general, and specifically to open one in Denver. Geographic diversity allows the USPTO to tap into a broader applicant pool to assure the patent office hires the best technical and science staff. Colorado's quality of life will help attract and retain those examiners to the new Denver office.

"When it was suggested that we could bring a patent office to Denver, some discounted the idea as a dream, but any vision can be realized with enough effort, teamwork and a bit of luck," said Franklin. "As traction increased everyone recognized that expansion of the patent office to embrace a nationwide workforce would bring the patent office to the next level and solidify our country's dominance of innovation. Our team showcased the best qualities of Colorado. It is an honor to be selected alongside such good friends and colleagues."

Mr. Franklin focuses his practice on patent prosecution, trademark prosecution, licensing and intellectual capital management. His clients recognize him as a thought leader when it comes to structuring innovation programs within companies large and small to efficiently capture the IP necessary to meet business objectives. His technical experience broadly covers the areas of software, networks, content delivery, business methods, clean technology, and communications. http://www.kilpatricktownsend.com/en/Who_We_Are/Professionals/F/FranklinThomasD15229.aspx

"Conceiving and completing this project took an exceptional level of vision and perseverance. My hat is off to Tom, John, and Mike," said Ian Saffer, Managing Partner in Kilpatrick Townsend's Denver office. "Bringing the Patent Office to Denver isn't just good for patent

lawyers, it's good for the entire Denver area. I'm proud that one of our partners was instrumental in making it happen.”

Each year, *Law Week Colorado* recognizes attorneys from various practice areas who stand out in the crowd for the legal excellence they display. Mr. Franklin was recognized in the Intellectual Property area.

For more information about Kilpatrick Townsend, please visit: www.kilpatricktownsend.com.

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