



John Afaras

Principal, Spruson & Ferguson Lawyers

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John Afaras is an intellectual property law specialist and registered trade marks attorney with more than 17 years experience. John principally practises in patent, trade mark, copyright and trade practices litigation and alternative dispute resolution.

A Principal of the firm for over eight years, John acts for a number of major international companies overseeing their trade mark portfolios, advising on anti-counterfeiting strategies and brand protection and development. John has developed anti-counterfeiting programs for a number of key clients and regularly works closely with the Australian Customs Service on the seizure of counterfeit goods. John also handles domain names disputes, protection and registration matters. John's patent and design litigation expertise extends over a broad range of technologies from the patents of refrigerants, and the design of high speed catamaran hulls to the design of bathroom sanitary-ware items.

John is a member of the Licensing Executives Society and the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand. He has been a member of the editorial board of the journal *Inhouse Counsel* and has contributed articles to a number of publications including co-authoring a chapter in *Intellectual Property in the Global Marketplace*. John practised in commercial and intellectual property litigation in a large Australian law firm for nine years before joining the firm in 1997.

John's expertise has been recognised internationally by publications such as *Guide to the World's Leading Patent Law Practitioner's* and *Best Lawyers International*.

Qualifications

- Bachelor of Laws, University of Sydney
- Bachelor of Economics, University of Sydney
- Solicitor, Supreme Court of New South Wales, Federal Court of Australia, High Court of Australia
- Registered Australian Trade Marks Attorney

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