## MEET A NAPP MEMBER **KIRBY DRAKE** SHE, HER, HERS Reg. No. 55,126

I recently became familiar with NAPP when Dan Krueger was looking for speakers for the Annual Meeting (AMC) this year. Attending and presenting at the AMC helped me to learn more about the organization, its members, and the offerings including the forums, which seemed helpful to someone like myself who is now in solo practice.

I joined NAPP this year following the AMC. While I am a new member, I have already become active in the AMC planning committee. I have also participated in the forums, and I am looking forward to finding other ways I can best be involved.

After having actively participated in local, state and national intellectual property organizations for all 20 years of my career. I have been pleasantly surprised to find that NAPP offers some of the most substantive discussions through the AMC, the forums and other activities of patent law and practice than any other organization. I also really appreciate that NAP is so inclusive of patent agents and other patent work (i.e., examiners, drafts persons, searchers, technologists, etc.). Brining together the different perspectives deepens the expertise and connections one can gain through being a part of NAPP.

I have been in solo practice since March 2021 after having spent over 10 years at an intellectual property boutique and 8 years at an international law firm. While my practice has a deep patent focus, I also do significant work with trademarks as well as other areas of intellectual property. I have a passion for pro bono and am active with the patent pro bono program in Texas. Outside my practice I have been active in the State Bar or Texas Intellectual Property and Women and the Law Sections and I have served as the chair of both sections. I am also very active in the American Chemical Society, Both on the local and national levels, having previously served as National Chair of the Committee on Patents.

I love to travel as much as I can, both within the US and internationally. Following the NAPP AMC, I completed a trip to Nebraska and the Dakotas. This means that I only have 3 states left to visit (Iowa, Wisconsin, and Ohio). I only have one more continent to visit (Africa) after having taken a cruise to Antarctica in 2019. I am a big sports fan, particularly Duke basketball, Clemson football and the Olympics. I have also gotten into home bartending, having taken numerous virtual cocktail making classes starting in 2020.

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