

MEET A NAPP MEMBER

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After becoming a patent agent in 2013 I was looking to broaden my professional interactions beyond the circle I met through my mentor. I became a NAPP member in 2014 and have met many insightful, helpful and supportive colleagues both on the forum and at the Annual Meeting (2020 virtual and 3 previous IRL). I am a solo practitioner working primarily with small companies and independent inventors, which can be tedious, frustrating and extremely gratifying - sometimes all in the same day! When I have a difficult question, my NAPP colleagues provide invaluable advice, as sounding boards, and add a much-needed layer of personal, professional connection.

In my earlier technical career I designed and integrated opto-electrical systems for an SBIR company, working with the DOD and NASA. In daily life, this translated to playing with lasers while learning more than I wanted to about life in the government. In my patent practice, an early client led me into the design patent area. As a result, the applications I prosecute now are split about 75/25 mechanical/design. I enjoy the prosecution side of patent work, and find my experience helps me understand and empathize with the examiner mindset.

I try to give back to the NAPP community by using the forum to share what I have learned. Members can usually find me lurking in the design forum or on the water cooler thread, a favorite Friday hangout. I also volunteered as an alpha - and beta - Tester for the USPTO's Patent Center.

In my personal time I am head chef, chauffeur and hugger for two tween boys & hubby; nature enthusiast and photographer; board member and coach for the local youth soccer club; and amateur powerlifter.



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