

Technical Consulting and Patent-Related Services for Hi-Tech Companies and The Legal Community by Computer & VLSI Systems Experts Bennett Smith and Korbin Van Dyke

We have joined forces to provide a wide range of technical and related intellectual property consulting services. We each have over 20 years of industrial experience, including computer engineering, digital system designs, and integrated circuit implementations. As a result, we understand complex digital systems such as microprocessors, signal processors, network processors, and complete computer systems, and we possess refined reverse-engineering skills encompassing a variety of design styles and techniques. We are also registered patent agents and have extensive patent application and patent litigation support experience. Accordingly, we have a rare ability to truly bridge the gap between digital engineering and patent law.

For the corporate executive, we perform special projects of either a short term or continuing nature, including working with and providing an interface to outside legal counsel; auditing or contributing claims in strategic patent applications; helping outside legal counsel understand the technology with a minimum burden on key contributors and executive staff; assisting counsel with infringement analysis; and assisting outside patent practitioners respond to problematic patent office rejections.

For the attorney or judge, we provide support for litigation or patent application activities, including adeptly explaining complex concepts to the lay person; helping with claim construction; review of specification requirements; comparing patent claims to accused products or the prior art; identifying and explaining the key documents from within thousands of pages; performing high quality invalidity searches; and identifying and explaining the shortcomings of the asserted prior art.

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Bennett Smith is a consultant in microprocessors, computing-platforms, and related intellectual property. He is co-inventor on more than five computer related patents and co-authored a graduate-level text: "The Anatomy of a High- Performance Microprocessor: A Systems Perspective," an IEEE Computer Society Press best-seller in 1999.

Smith received his BSEE in 1980 from Texas A&M and subsequently worked as an IC designer at Texas Instruments and Hewlett-Packard. In 1984, Smith received his MSEE from UC Berkeley where he studied microprocessor logic design and wrote a thesis under Dr. Nick Tredennick. He worked on processor projects during 1984-1989 at the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center (on the Micro/370) and at NexGen (on the Nx586, as employee number 6). Smith did design and intellectual property consulting during 1989-1992 for Tredennick, Incorporated. Smith became a patent agent in late 1992 and managed NexGen's intellectual property activities during 1993-1995.

Since 1993 Smith has focused on providing strategic technical consulting and related intellectual property services to high-tech companies and their legal counsel. He is a Senior Member of the IEEE and is based in the greater Austin, Texas, area.

Walter Bennett Smith III



Korbin Van Dyke is a consultant in digital systems and related intellectual property. He is co-inventor on more than 35 computer related patents, including several on speculative instruction execution, branch prediction, multiple ISA execution, compatible ISA implementation techniques, and PC sub-system virtualization.

Van Dyke received his BSEE and MSEE degrees in 1980 and 1982 from UC Berkeley where he participated in the implementation of RISC I with Dr. Dave Patterson. Van Dyke led a team building a programmable digital signal processor at VLSI Technology during 1982-1987. At NexGen (later AMD), 1987-1996, he was a key contributor on the Nx586 team. At Chromatic Research (later ATI), Van Dyke co-architected solutions for compatible, multiple ISA execution during 1996-2000. Van Dyke contributed to the development of a network processor at XStream Logic (later Clearwater Networks) from 2000 to 2001 and became a patent agent in 2002.

Van Dyke has been developing insights into and providing solutions for complex digital systems for more than 20 years and still enjoys the daily challenges of learning and solving. He is an IEEE and ACM member and is based in the greater Silicon Valley area.

Korbin Van Dyke