

PATENT DRAFTING MASTERCLASS

MELBOURNE
13 - 14 NOVEMBER 2025

SYDNEY
17 - 18 NOVEMBER 2025



WHY ATTEND THIS MASTERCLASS?

The Court's approach to claim interpretation has changed in recent times and practitioners will need to adapt their drafting to take this into account. IPTA's Patent Drafting Masterclass will be presented by patent drafting specialists from Australia, Europe and the USA in the fields of mechanical engineering, chemistry, life sciences, and electronics/computing. The Masterclass is intended to provide experienced patent attorneys (with five or more years' drafting experience) with practical guidance and insights into best-practice drafting for Australia and some of our major trading partners.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

IPTA Members who are registered patent attorneys. The Masterclass assumes a good knowledge of the general principles of patent law and their application. It will best suit practitioners with five or more years' patent drafting experience.

VENUE:	<u>FB Rice Melbourne - Level 33, 477 Collins Street</u> <u>FB Rice Sydney - Level 29, 126 Phillip Street</u>
TIMING:	Day 1: 8:45 am – 5:00 pm Day 2: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
FORMAT:	The <u>event spans two days</u> , with morning tea and lunch provided. Dinner is included on the evening of Day 1.
CPE:	This course provides at least 10 hours of educational content.
COST:	IPTA Members: \$1,800 plus GST Dinner on Day 1 is included. For non-IPTA members, please contact the Secretariat.
REGISTER:	Please <u>register online</u> by Wednesday, 22 October, 2025. Spaces are limited to ensure a personalised learning experience, and registration may close early. For additional information, call IPTA at (03) 9639 4377.

PRESENTERS

Ben Boyd specialises in patent drafting across a wide range of technologies, including mechanical, chemical, life sciences, electrical, computing, and engineering. He has extensive experience preparing high-quality applications tailored to business goals, from early-stage innovation to global portfolio management. Ben works closely with inventors and companies to secure effective, commercially focused protection that supports long-term growth and investment. See full profile [link](#).

Courtenay C. Brinckerhoff focuses on strategic patent counselling including drafting and prosecution strategies, with experience in chemical, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and industrial technologies. She develops robust patent portfolios that align with business objectives and regulatory landscapes and advises clients ranging from emerging companies to global enterprises, helping them secure effective protection and maximise the value of their innovations. See full profile [link](#).

Nesli Doran-Civan is a registered patent attorney specialising in drafting and prosecuting patent applications across diverse technologies in various jurisdictions. She has extensive experience with aeronautical and mechanical systems, unmanned and autonomous vehicles, EVs as well as medical devices, medical imaging, hardware and software for fintech and gaming industries. See full profile [link](#).

Dr Ronelle Geldenhuys is a Trans-Tasman patent attorney. She specialises in drafting and prosecuting patents across electronics, software, AI, telecommunications, control systems, mine automation, and electro-optics. With experience in both private practice and in-house roles, Ronelle brings practical insight to patent drafting, strategy, infringement, and validity advice for diverse technologies. See full profile [link](#).

Ilya Kazi, a leading European patent attorney, is recognised for his expertise in strategic patent drafting. With a background in physics, computing and engineering and decades of experience across diverse technologies, he has guided innovators from startups to multinationals in securing strong, commercially focused patent portfolios, ensuring robust protection and alignment with business goals. See full profile [link](#).



Ben Boyd

Partner, Patent Attorney,
Mewburn Ellis, UK



**Courtenay C.
Brinckerhoff**

Partner,
Foley & Lardner, LLP, USA



Nesli Doran-Civan

Partner,
Kilpatrick Townsend &
Stockton, USA



**Dr Ronelle
Geldenhuys**

Principal,
Jones Maxwell Smith &
Davis, AUS



Ilya Kazi

Founder & CEO,
IK-IP Ltd, UK

Register

PRESENTERS

Dr Sam Mickan is a Registered Australian and New Zealand Patent Attorney specialising in drafting and prosecuting patents in engineering, electronics, and software. With a Ph.D. in terahertz technology and prior academic and research leadership, he combines technical depth with legal expertise. Sam advises inventors, start-ups, and global companies, delivering clear, commercially valuable patent specifications worldwide. See full profile [link](#).

Barry Newman is registered to practice in Australia and New Zealand. A Fellow of the IPTA, he holds degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics from the University of Western Australia. With over 25 years' experience, Barry has drafted several hundred patent specifications, with a particular focus on inventions in the areas of mining, construction, and renewable energy. See full profile [link](#).

Mark O'Donnell has over 35 years' experience in intellectual property. He has worked as a patent examiner, consultant, and attorney, specialising in Life Sciences and Chemistry. Renowned for his strategic, client-focused patent drafting, Mark has been recognised as an Australian patent "IP Star" by Managing Intellectual Property since 2014. See full profile [link](#).

Nadia Odorico is a registered Trans-Tasman patent attorney with over 25 years of experience in patent drafting and strategic IP management. She specialises in patents and designs across diverse sectors, including consumer goods, medical devices, and manufacturing. Additionally, Nadia serves as Global Intellectual Property Manager at The Decor Corporation and lectures on patent drafting at Melbourne Law School. See full profile [link](#).

Dr Ian Rourke is a partner in the Melbourne biotechnology team. With a PhD in molecular neuroendocrinology and extensive postdoctoral research experience, he specialises in drafting and prosecuting international patent applications and advising on IP strategy. Recognised in IAM Global Leaders and Strategy 300, Ian provides commercially focused, collaborative guidance to universities, research institutes, start-ups and listed companies. See full profile [link](#).



Dr Sam Mickan



Barry Newman

Principal,
Armour IP, AUS



Mark O'Donnell

Managing Partner
Madderns, AUS



Nadia Odorico

Partner,
BOSH IP, AUS



Dr Ian Rourke

Partner,
FB Rice, AUS

Register

PRESENTERS

George Schlich is a UK and European Patent Attorney. With a MA in Natural Sciences from the University of Cambridge, he specialises in drafting, prosecution and EPO oppositions across life sciences and chemistry, including CRISPR/Cas9. George advises startups and multinationals, providing strategic, technically precise and commercially focused advice on patent protection and offensive and defensive proceedings. See full profile [link](#).

Dr Toby Thompson, Practice Group Leader of the ChemLife team in Melbourne, specialises in patent drafting and prosecution for chemical and biological inventions. With a PhD in synthetic organic chemistry and industry research experience, he advises on global IP strategy, portfolio management, and freedom-to-operate studies. Toby also teaches patent drafting at Melbourne Law School and presents regularly on IP strategy. See full profile [link](#).

Peter S. Weissman, a partner at Blank Rome LLP (a full service firm with 16 US offices) and former U.S. Patent Examiner, specialises in patent drafting, prosecution, and litigation in the electrical and mechanical arts. He is frequently invited to speak at university entrepreneurship courses, podcasts, and for the IEEE (the world's largest technical organisation). See full profile [link](#).



George Schlich

Director,
Schlich Ltd, UK



Dr Toby Thompson

Principal,
Griffith Hack, AUS



Peter Weissman

Partner, Intellectual
Property,
Blank Rome LLP, USA

Thursday 13 - Friday 14 November

**Register
Melbourne**

Monday 17 - Tuesday 18 November

**Register
Sydney**

Indicative Course Outline Patent Drafting Masterclass

Day 1

- 8:30 am Registration Open
- 8:45 am Welcome
- 9:00 am Session 1 – Presentation and Panel Discussion
- 9:50 am Short Break
- 10:00 am Session 2 – Presentations and Panel Discussions
- 11:50 am Lunch Break
- 1:00 pm Session 3 – Technology-specific small groups
- 2:30 pm Afternoon Tea / Coffee Break
- 3:00 pm Session 4 – Game
- 3:45 pm Session 5 – Panel discussion
- 5:00 pm End of Day 1
- 7:00 pm Dinner Day 1 – included in registration fee

Indicative Course Outline Patent Drafting Masterclass

Day 2

9:00 am Session 6 – Panel discussion

10:20 am Short Break

10:30 am Session 7 – Panel discussion

11:50 am Lunch

1:00 pm Session 8 – Technology-specific small groups

2:30 pm Afternoon Tea / Coffee Break

3:00 pm Session 9 – Patent Drafting Exercise in Small Group

5:00 pm Close and sum up

7:00 pm Dinner Day 2 – not included in registration fee

[Register](#)