

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Seminar

Careers in Intellectual Property and Patent Law for Engineers

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM, September 04, 2026, Cullen College of Engineering 2,

W122 GP Auditorium Classroom. Pizza will be provided at 12:15 PM

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Most electrical engineering curricula focus on how inventions are built, with almost no attention paid to who owns them. Yet every patent covering an electrical or electronic invention is the work of someone fluent in both the technology and the law, and the supply of such people has never met the demand. Patent practice at the United States Patent and Trademark Office is among the few areas of law that require a technical degree as a precondition, and electrical engineering is among the most sought-after backgrounds within it. This seminar introduces the substantive law needed to understand that work — how to read a patent, how a patent moves through its life cycle from filing to expiry, and why the timing of a filing can determine whether rights exist at all — before turning to the professional routes into the field. It considers why the technical degree, rather than the law degree, is the threshold requirement for entry, and what examiners, patent agents, and patent attorneys actually do day to day. The seminar also addresses how one qualifies, including the patent bar and the circumstances in which law school is genuinely warranted, and closes with practical suggestions on where to look for entry points while still a student.

Moriah Bisewski is an associate at Fletcher Yoder, where she focuses on patent preparation and prosecution in the software and electronics fields. She joined the firm in 2017 after earning her electrical engineering degree from the University of Houston, and remained there while completing her law degree at the University of Houston Law Center, from which she graduated in 2024. Her practice spans a wide variety of technologies, including memory devices, software, computer networking devices, consumer electronics, display devices, and industrial automation. She currently chairs the Women in IP Committee of the State Bar of Texas IP Section and serves as Secretary of the Intellectual Property Owners Association's U.S. Patent Law Committee.