

## MARY LOU WAKIMURA

**Principal  
Hamilton, Brook, Smith &  
Reynolds  
Lincoln**



**Years in practice:** 39

**Best known for:**

Patent law, built on 39 years of experience advising startups, universities, and research institutions on strategic IP protection.

**Why I chose my practice area:**

To merge technical expertise with a desire to support innovation. I saw IP law as an opportunity to work closely with innovators at the cutting edge of technology, helping them protect their ideas and bring transformative products to market.

**Most memorable case:**

Before software was a household term, patents capturing improvements in spreadsheet features, display of word-processing fonts, and human-to-computer interface are memorable cases. Ahead of the dot-com boom, social media patents and computer platform patent matters are memorable. Also unforgettable are the many patent cases on graphics processing that gave rise to the multi-billion dollar video gaming industry.

**What makes me a leader in my field:**

I am often a speaker or presenter and

otherwise involved in key organizations such as BIPLA, AUTM, AALAM and other startup accelerators. My commitment to innovation, mentorship, and inclusion sets me apart.

**Outlook for 2025:**

As emerging technologies like generative artificial intelligence, tissue engineering/synthetic biology, personalized medicine, and quantum computing evolve, I anticipate the patent system will face new challenges in assessing subject matter eligibility and inventorship — particularly with AI-assisted innovations.

**Bar involvement/leadership roles:**

As co-chair of BIPLA's Diversity & Inclusion Committee from 2020 (inaugural year) to 2022, I helped lead DEI efforts and spoke at events to inspire future IP professionals. I have also mentored startups through programs like UNH Wild Catalyst, MIT Enterprise Forum and Mass-Challenge.