



Justin D. Swindells

Partner

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Justin Swindells has built his legal career supporting and protecting his client's intellectual property rights. His practice focuses on understanding and developing strategies and relationships with clients, as well as patent and trademark examiners, to meet desired outcomes for all parties. He has secured thousands of patents and trademarks for his clients spanning numerous technologies and industries through his diligence and ability to position his clients' interests favorably.

Justin has a unique combination of skills—he is an experienced litigator who diligently advocates for his clients and is skilled in patent and trademark prosecution and IP licensing, bringing to bear experience with mergers and acquisitions that he leverages to execute tailored strategies for clients.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Justin was an electrical engineer who worked with Fortune 500 companies. His love of writing and a unique international upbringing spanning at least eight countries were driving forces behind his transition to a legal career. He served as a law clerk to the late Honorable Martin C. Ashman for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and as a judicial extern for the now Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Education

- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (B.S., *summa cum laude*, 1995)
 - Electrical Engineering
- Chicago-Kent College of Law (J.D., *Order of the Coif*, 1998)

Admissions

- Illinois
- United States District Court - Northern District of Illinois
- United States District Court - Eastern District of Texas
- United States Patent and Trademark Office

Services & Industries

- Additive Manufacturing/3D Printing
- Asia-Pacific Practice
- Blockchain
- Copyright
- Tech, Privacy & Cyber Risk
- Financial Technology
- Food & Agribusiness
- Health Care Transactions
- Information Technology & Software Disputes
- Intellectual Property
- Internet, Technology & Social Media
- IP Litigation
- Licensing
- Life Sciences & Biotechnology
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Middle East Practice
- Patents
- Software Development & Licensing
- Technology
- Trademark

Professional Affiliations

- Illinois State Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago (IPLAC)
- International Trademark Association (INTA)
- National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)
- Executive Articles Editor, *Chicago-Kent Law Review*

Awards & Honors

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Litigation – Intellectual Property, 2025-2026
- Leading LawyersSM, Copyright & Trademark Law, Intellectual Property Law, 2025
- Illinois *Super Lawyers*®, 2018-2019, 2026

Languages

- French

Success Stories

Ice Miller Represents Vietnamese Company in Expanding Sustainable Packaging Operations in the United States

Ice Miller serves as legal counsel to Plascene Inc., a subsidiary of Vietnam's DUYTAN Group, providing strategic legal guidance as the company strengthens its position in the United States plastics market and advances its commitment to sustainable packaging.

Founded in 2011, Plascene has grown from a single manufacturing facility in Oxnard, California, into a recognized leader in food-grade PET and recycled PET (rPET) bottles and jars. The company now operates 15 production lines with an annual capacity exceeding 270 million bottles, serving global clients across the food, beverage, and nutraceutical sectors. Plascene has built long-standing partnerships with brands whose products are distributed in leading retailers, including Costco, Walmart, Trader Joe's, Target, and Sam's Club. As part of DUYTAN Group—Vietnam's largest plastic manufacturer with more than 38 years of industry experience—Plascene benefits from its parent company's global network and shared dedication to sustainability.

The deal team was led by partner [Mai Zymaris](#) and supported by partners [Justin Swindells](#), [Wonnie Lee](#), [Freedom Smith](#), [Olga Voinarevich](#), [Ken Robinson](#), [Terri Czajka](#), [John Cannizzaro](#), and [Brad Jones](#). Associates [Grace Dahm](#), [Amy Flowers](#), [Zenas Shi](#), and law clerk Kelly Xia provided additional assistance. Ice Miller's [Vietnam Practice](#) interdisciplinary team has counseled Plascene on intellectual property protection, international trade compliance, commercial and IP-related contracts, tax credits, employee benefits, and cross-border transactions. The firm's guidance has enabled Plascene to navigate complex regulatory frameworks while strengthening its competitive position in the global packaging market.

"Ice Miller stands out by combining that same 'Big Law' caliber expertise with the personalized, flexible service of a boutique firm—all at reasonable rates. No issue is too small; the team always prioritizes practical solutions over billable hours or high-profile wins," said Plascene General Counsel Minh Khoa D. Tran. "What impressed me most is their remarkable responsiveness and flexibility. Despite Plascene not being their largest client, they treat us as a top priority, seeing our future potential and supporting our U.S. expansion every step of the way."

Plascene's continued expansion demonstrates how thoughtful legal counsel can support mission-driven manufacturers as they scale across jurisdictions and advance industry standards for sustainable production.

Published In

- “Make Money by Exposing Secrets,” *Illinois Technology*, August/September 2002
- “How to Evaluate and Properly Rely on Patent Opinions,” *Illinois Property & Technology Law Journal*, Vol. 15, No. 9, September 2003
- “Repackaging Original Trademarked Goods: Trademark Exhaustion or Consumer Confusion?” *7 Fed. Cir. Bar. J.* 391, Winter 1997