

Vance V. VanDrake III

Partner

vvandrake@fbtgibbons.com | 513.651.6835

Great American Tower
301 East Fourth Street, Suite 3300
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Industries

Consumable Goods

Life Sciences

Manufacturing

Practice Areas

Private Equity & Venture

Corporate Law

Intellectual Property

Outside General Counsel Services

Patent

Trademarks

Venture

Bar Memberships

Ohio

Vance is an intellectual property (IP), patent, trademark, and venture capital attorney. He brings a progressive and creative approach to the development of intellectual property and business strategy for emerging businesses and startup companies. He also helps his clients, including many angel and venture-backed companies, develop comprehensive strategies in a broad range of technologies including software, medical devices, and mechanical and electrical innovations. Vance assists his clients with all aspects of patent drafting and prosecution, trademark registration and clearance, and copyright and trade secret protection. His experience includes providing clients with patentability, validity, and infringement opinions, and serving various intellectual property litigation and regulatory (FDA) needs.

Vance has worked in-house for a Fortune 500 company, has co-founded three startup companies, and is an active angel investor. He is a frequent keynote speaker and mentor for universities, startup accelerators, incubators, and technology groups. He is a past President of the Greater Cincinnati Venture Association, was appointed by the Mayor of Cincinnati to the Small Business Advisory Committee and was recognized as one of Cincinnati's *Top 40 under 40*.

Alongside his robust practice, Vance is the author of "The Patent Game," a book written specifically for inventors, entrepreneurs, and business leaders that want to improve their patent knowledge. As Vance refers to it, "IP IQ" can be used to leverage patents as a key driver of business value. He helps readers and clients understand patent application types, tricks and tools, the anatomy of a patent, and other practical information they can apply directly to their

business or innovation.

Other Info About Vance

Education

University of Cincinnati College of Law, J.D., 2005

Butler University, B.S., Biology, 2001

Courts

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Recognition

Managing Intellectual Property's IP STARS, 2026

Chambers USA, Intellectual Property, 2019-2025

The Best Lawyers in America®: Patent, 2016-2027

National Law Journal, Intellectual Property Trailblazers, 2020

Cincy Magazine, Leading Lawyer in Patent Law, 2019-2023

Super Lawyers, Ohio Rising Stars list 2014-2018

Cincinnati Business Courier, Top 40 Under 40

Professional Affiliations

American Bar Association

Cincinnati Bar Association

Greater Cincinnati Venture Association (GCVA) (Former President; Board of Trustees)

City of Cincinnati's Small Business Advisory Council

Intellectual Property Owners Association

Mensa

Venture For America

OCEAN Accelerator

UpTech Accelerator

Hamilton County Business Center Incubator

VaanGuard Mentor for Small Businesses

Civic Activities

Freemason

Pro Bono Partnership of Ohio

CincyBio Planning Committee 2010-2011

Cincinnati Innovation Awards Planning Committee 2010-2011

Presentations

Raising from Angels: The Practical Guide to Doing It Right, Presentation to EC Dayton, April 2026

What's Your IP IQ? The Patent Game and IP Basics for Entrepreneurs, Presentation to Spark Cleantech Accelerator, March 2025

The Patent Game: Winning IP Strategies for Investors & Startups, Presentation to IKOVE Venture Capital Group, October 2019

Software Patents: A Moving Target, moderator, The Circuit, October 2015

Software Patents: A Moving Target, moderator, eKickstart program, November 2014

Intellectual Property Basics, First Batch, July 2014

Major Publications

Author: "The Patent Game", 2019

Author: "To protect your name, know trademark rules", *Cincinnati.com,* December 2013

Author: "Lean, Prompt Patents Powerful," *Cincinnati.com,* April 2013

© 2026 FBT Gibbons LLP. May be considered attorney advertising in some jurisdictions.