

Top Washington Lawyers

Intellectual Property



Alex Chartove

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Following just one year of grad school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Chartove dropped out after realizing he would have to earn a living with the skills he was learning.

"At that time many Ph.D.s in physics were earning money driving cabs, so I opted for something which seemed much more practical," says Chartove, now 51.

But law degree in hand, Chartove didn't leave his beloved science too far behind: He assembled an IP practice allowing him to combine law and technology. "I also recognized that in an increasingly technology-focused world, there will always be a need for a lawyer who can understand and who can speak the language of engineers, of lawyers and of business people," he says.

Chartove spent much of last year representing Fujitsu in what he calls the "patent wars" between Japanese and Korean companies over plasma TV technology.

"This was (and still is) a global IP dispute involving hundreds of patents and virtually every major Japanese and Korean electronics manufacturer," he says. "We were successful in helping Fujitsu resolve the matter by selling its plasma-related IP portfolio."

His local clients include Essex of Columbia and Voxiva of D.C.

Chartove and his wife, Lauren Randel, are raising their three daughters in Bethesda. His key to maintaining his sanity is to arrive at the office early and leave early.

"Knowing when to start work and when to stop work are important skills," he says. Chartove loves watching reruns of "Mystery Science Theater 3000" with his daughters. "I enjoy hearing my daughters' comments about the show as much as the show itself," he says.