



Yusef Abutouq

Associate

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Yusef Abutouq is an intellectual property and privacy attorney whose practice bridges complex disputes and emerging technologies. He advises technology companies, digital platforms, AI developers, global brands, and other companies on patent, trademark, and copyright litigation, online enforcement, and cross-border portfolio strategy. He also counsels boards and leaders on AI governance, data licensing, and platform risk. Drawing on extensive work with content- and data-driven business models, Yusef turns regulatory and litigation exposure into practical plans that balance enforcement, risk, and growth across jurisdictions.

AI Governance and Data Privacy

Yusef helps organizations adopt and govern AI systems responsibly, operationalizing applicable privacy regulations, such as the CPPA, HIPAA, EU/UK GDPR, and NIST frameworks, via policies, impact assessments, vendor agreements, and diligence, as well as other documentation designed to withstand regulatory and counterparty scrutiny. He regularly presents and publishes on emerging AI legislation, litigation, and other legal developments, transforming diffuse risk into implementable guardrails.

IP Litigation and Platform Disputes

Yusef represents and guides clients through global and multi-forum patents, trademarks, copyrights, and other intellectual property enforcement and defense. His work also includes anti-counterfeiting and Lanham Act false advertising and unfair competition matters, with case strategies aligned not only with securing the most favorable outcome but also with product timelines, reputation, and other client-centric considerations. He briefs boards and general counsel on litigation exposure and settlement pathways, delivering timely, creative solutions to keep legal strategy synchronized with business objectives.

Online Brand Protection and Content Enforcement

Services

- Intellectual Property & Technology
- Cybersecurity & Data Privacy
- Art Law

Yusef designs and executes enforcement programs across marketplaces, social media, gaming and virtual platforms, and web infrastructure providers, leveraging platform tools, targeted takedowns, and litigation to address infringement, counterfeiting, impersonation, and deceptive advertising while preserving core partnerships and launch timelines.

Global IP Portfolio Strategy and Transactions

Yusef advises startups to Fortune 10 companies in diverse industries on global IP strategy and partners with local counsel in key markets to align IP clearance, filing, prosecution, and enforcement with local procedures and evidence standards. In transactions, he conducts diligence on intellectual property and other intangible assets, assessing ownership, licensing, provenance, and operational constraints that affect valuation, integration, and regulatory compliance. He delivers executive-ready risk summaries that connect filings and deal terms to product roadmaps and go-to-market plans.

Education

- New York Law School (J.D., 2016)
- University of Texas at Dallas (B.S. Biochemistry, B.A. Visual and Performing Arts – Music Concentration, 2012)

Bar Admissions

- New York
- U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

Professional Affiliations

- America Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association
- International Trademark Association
- International Association of Privacy Professionals

Awards & Honors

M&A Advisor Turnaround Awards: Distressed M&A Deal of the Year (\$50MM to \$100MM), 2025

Languages

- French

Representative Matters

Nonprofit Journalism – AI Fact-Checking Platform

Advised on an internal AI-driven, fact-checking and content verification tool, including collaboration and grant terms. Counseled on data privacy, IP ownership, indemnification, and risk mitigation with guardrails for accuracy, sourcing, and downstream use. Briefed

leadership on internal versus public deployment and governance to align roadmap with regulatory and resource constraints.

Legal Services Organization – Biometric/Confidential Intake and Research Tool

Assessed privacy, biometric, confidentiality, and ethics risks for an AI-enabled intake and research system handling privileged and PII/biometric data. Prepared an internal opinion addressing BIPA, CCPA, relevant professional rules, and litigation trends. Recommended practical compliance pathways tailored to a nonprofit environment.

Semiconductor Design Software – AI and Data Licensing Playbook

Reviewed software, content, and data licenses with AI-centric amendments and identified terms affecting internal use, promotion, model training, and outputs. Delivered cross-functional guidance to legal, product, engineering, marketing, and sales. Produced an actionable playbook on permissible use, vendor engagements, and IP risk controls.

Health Technology Startup – Blockchain-Enabled Pre-Launch Compliance

Evaluated white papers, investor materials, and product documentation for securities, privacy, and data security exposure. Drafted a memorandum mapping regulatory risks and recommended mitigation strategies for data handling and positioning. Aligned pre-launch communications and controls with applicable frameworks.

Multi-Industry Clients – Policy Suite and Platform Compliance

Drafted and updated privacy policies, terms of use, community guidelines, and platform-specific compliance strategies. Aligned documentation with prevailing privacy and platform standards, including app marketplace requirements. Supported product approvals and partner expectations across media, entertainment, education, and creative sectors.

Product Counseling – Privacy by Design and Algorithmic Accountability

Reviewed data flows, architecture, UI/UX, and technical specs to embed privacy by design and accountability in product lifecycles. Recommended security controls, governance and oversight measures, and user transparency features. Integrated complementary IP protection strategies to support product and brand goals.

Algorithmic Governance and Data Scraping – Regulatory and Litigation Risk

Advised on emerging AI governance obligations, scraping risk, and evolving privacy legislation and enforcement. Provided guidance on lawful data sourcing, model training rights, and internal versus external uses. Outlined practices to reduce regulatory and litigation exposure while enabling innovation.

Enforcement and Intermediary Issues – Multi-Platform Program

Managed DMCA Designated Agent functions, coordinated takedowns and responses, and processed GDPR requests. Advised on intermediary liability and reputational considerations across social, marketplace, and web infrastructure providers. Established practical protocols to address impersonation, counterfeiting, and deceptive content.

Multi-Forum IP Litigation – Federal/State, USPTO/TTAB, and Cross-Border

Represented clients in coordinated copyright and trademark disputes across civil actions and TTAB proceedings, including ownership/priority and counterfeiting issues. Secured

procedural orders such as leave to add a lack of bona fide intent to use claim, continuations of suspension pending related litigation, and discovery relief. Managed complex discovery and multifunctional teams and advised on unsettled procedural/substantive questions to align trial strategy with business goals.

Reputation and Defamation Matters – Federal and State Courts

Handled libel and related reputation claims, including conducting a solo deposition of a key defense witness that contributed to a prompt, favorable resolution. Led witness due diligence, preparation, and case strategy and drafted pleadings and procedural motions. Advised on risk and resolution pathways to calibrate litigation posture to communications and commercial considerations.

Trademark Appeals and Oral Argument – USPTO/TTAB

Managed briefing and strategy for a full TTAB appeal, including Office Action responses, reconsideration, and appellate submissions. Second-chaired in-person oral argument in Washington, DC, and prepared senior counsel newly assigned before hearing. Provided detailed strategy reports to guide stakeholder decision-making throughout the appeal.

USPTO/TTAB Contested Proceedings

Drafted and argued pleadings and motions in oppositions, cancellations, expungements, and related filings, from Notice through Answer and dispositive practice. Directed investigations, curated evidence, and aligned record-building with trial themes. Integrated legal research and procedural tactics to preserve leverage in parallel forums.

Online Enforcement, Domains, and Platform Compliance

Advised on impersonation, infringement, counterfeiting, and squatting across domains and major platforms, coordinating takedowns and responses under the DMCA and analogous mechanisms. Prepared UDRP complaints, analyzed party submissions, and supported decision drafting to address abusive registrations. Established practical protocols spanning IP, content, and privacy (including GDPR/CCPA requests) to mitigate risk and protect brand value.

Foreign IP Litigation and Cross-Border Coordination

Supported enforcement and defense in local courts and agencies across Canada, Europe, the UK, and multiple regions in APAC, MEA, and Latin America. Coordinated with foreign counsel, analyzed translated records and local procedure, and prepared evidence packages tailored to jurisdictional standards. Developed global strategies that sequence filings and forums to maximize efficiency and outcomes.

Publications

April 2026

DRI Publishes Article by Farmer and Abutouq on Executive Order Targeting State AI Laws

DRI's For the Defense