



Sharon Barner

Sharon is Vice President and General Counsel for Cummins Inc., where she is responsible for worldwide legal matters and oversees a team of lawyers, paralegals and other professionals.

With more than 30 years of experience in the legal profession, Sharon primarily specializes in intellectual property law. Prior to joining Cummins, she served as Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). During the two years she spent in that role, Sharon led 15 foreign missions to meet with government representatives, as well as leaders in academia and industry to raise awareness about the impact of intellectual property on business and innovation.

She has spent the majority of her career in private practice, most recently at the law firm of Foley & Lardner in Chicago, where she led the firm's Intellectual Property Department, a team of more than 200 intellectual property lawyers.

Sharon was recipient of the 2018 Diversity Tech Award from the Intellectual Property Section of the National Bar Association, 2016 IBJ Women of Influence - IBJ's Women of Influence program is in its 10th year of recognizing women who have risen to the highest levels of business, the arts and public service in central Indiana. 2016 Leading Light Award –Barnes & Thornburg LLC Women & hi tech Woman of the Year Award. 2013 American Inns of Court Professionalism award for the 7th Circuit and the 2011 Women of Vision award from the Women's Bar Association of Illinois. She was named one of the 50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in America by the National Law Journal in 2008 and an Illinois "Super Lawyer" by Law & Politics Media Inc. (2005-2011) for her intellectual property litigation work.

She is a graduate of Syracuse University where she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and went on to receive a law degree from the University of Michigan Law School.