

MVP: Desmarais' John Desmarais

By **Dani Kass**

Law360 (November 17, 2025, 4:03 PM EST) -- Desmarais LLP partner John Desmarais helped Apple beat a \$360 million damages case and protected more than \$400 million in damages for Ravgen Inc. in two of his eight trials last year, earning him a spot as one of the 2025 Law360 Intellectual Property MVPs.

His biggest accomplishment in the last year:

Desmarais represented Apple in litigation where Identity Security LLC was pursuing more than \$361 million in damages, claiming its iPhones infringed cybersecurity patents. But Identity Security was an individual inventor, not a multinational corporation, which Desmarais said made the Western District of Texas trial in October 2024 particularly difficult.

"He had a nice story, where he had an immigrant background and came to the United States, and came up with an idea and started a company," Desmarais said. "It was a nice American story. He brought his wife and his two daughters into the courtroom and introduced them to the jury. He presented a very sympathetic look, and I was representing a big corporation."

The merits, Desmarais successfully argued, were that Apple's products didn't infringe the patents. He attempted to focus on that, rather than attacking the inventor, when pursuing the case.

"I thought it would be very difficult to have the jury weigh the case on the merits and that there might be an emotional pull to the plaintiff," he said. "My job was to bring them around and have them do the right thing."

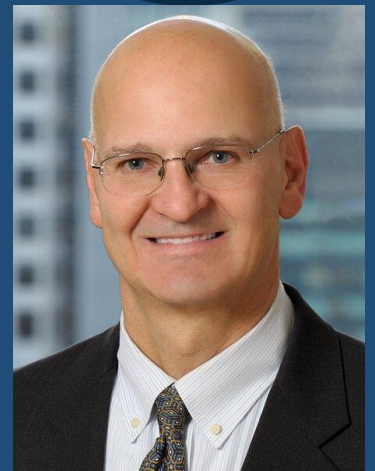
Other notable cases:

Ravgen's infringement proceedings against Labcorp had Desmarais backing the inventor with a good story. The patent owner, Dr. Ravinder Dhallan, had started a company focusing on prenatal diagnostics after his wife had two miscarriages. He was "infuriated by the state of prenatal care," the attorney said, and came up with the genetic testing method at the heart of the litigation.

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John Desmarais

Desmarais

"He did it all by himself, and it was a great invention," Desmarais said. "He got a patent on it, and then he went around to all the big diagnostic companies to pitch the idea because he didn't want to be a manufacturer. He wanted to license the idea and have them do it. One by one, the big diagnostics companies just ripped off the idea and ran with it."

The litigation is long-running, but the last year had Desmarais overseeing three Federal Circuit proceedings where the patents behind \$429.5 million in damages were upheld.

"It was a really fun series of cases because we got to champion an individual inventor against the big corporations and punish some bad conduct," Desmarais said.

His biggest challenge in the last year:

Just getting through the year was the biggest challenge, Desmarais said.

"I did more trials last year than I think I've ever done in one year," he said. "For a long period of time last year, I focused on work to the expense of all else. I went from hotel to hotel for several months, from one trial to the next, with two weeks in between. I did that for a long stretch."

His advice for junior attorneys:

The best thing attorneys can do is focus on treating the people they're working with as the client, as opposed to the larger company they're working with, Desmarais said.

"The in-house people at the companies are under a lot of stress," he said. "There's a case that they're responsible for, and their bosses are barking at them to get the job done. And if you treat those people like your clients, as opposed to, 'I represent big corporation ABC,' the job becomes a lot more rewarding because you're helping people get through their day, and you're giving them the advice they need to take the next steps they need."

--As told to Dani Kass. Editing by Emma Brauer.

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