

Christopher J. McKenna

Office Managing Partner
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Boston



The manager of Foley & Lardner's Boston office since 2021, Christopher J. McKenna is also co-chair of the firm's Electronics practice and chair for Cloud Computing Infrastructure and Solutions. He focuses his practice on intellectual property law and business strategy, advising technology companies ranging from early-stage startups to Fortune 100 and Global 100 enterprises on building, managing, and protecting patent portfolios aligned with their business goals.

McKenna's focus as managing partner has centered on three priorities: culture, client service and people development.

Culture development is paramount to McKenna's mission and is rooted in the philosophy that high standards without kindness creates compliance, but high standards with kindness creates ownership.

On the client service side, McKenna has pushed his team to transform themselves from trusted legal advisers to trusted business advisers. His experience serving as COO of a company he co-founded gave him a lens that most lawyers do not have, and he's have tried to embed that perspective into how the office approaches client relationships; that is, as partners in the room helping clients make better decisions.

Regarding people development, McKenna sees his job as grooming the next generation of business professionals and attorneys to continue to grow the office and the firm. As someone who personally benefited from mentorship, he understands the importance of providing guidance to those who may not have the same opportunities.

McKenna has co-authored thought leadership on integrating large-scale IP practice within a general practice platform, a model that has contributed to Foley ranking first among general practice firms and third overall in total U.S. utility patents issued.

A first-generation college student who grew up in Chelsea, McKenna provides pro bono mentoring through UMass Lowell's DifferenceMaker program and Suffolk Law School's SEEDs program. The Boston office supports Jaylen Brown's 7uice Foundation, La Vida Scholars, and the Boys & Girls Club.

McKenna has been with Foley & Lardner for 16 years.