

Jim Bechtel

Jim Bechtel runs Intellectual Assets Consulting, LLC, a business that advises on value and protection of inventions, trade secrets, patents, trademarks, copyrights and other intellectual property. Previously, he was the Intellectual Property (IP) Counsel of the Navy and the Deputy Counsel for the Office of Naval Research (ONR) within the Department of the Navy's Office of the General Counsel (and a member of the Senior Executive Service). In this position, he was responsible for forming, coordinating and promulgating Navy intellectual property policy and giving advice to the Chief of Naval Research and the General Counsel on matters important to Navy R&D and Systems acquisition. He received the Department of the Navy's Superior Civilian Service Award for his work.

During his tenure as IP Counsel of the Navy, he was responsible for expanding the Navy Technology Transfer Program to more than trebling royalty income from patent licensing. He also started the first revenue-bearing Navy trademark license. Also during his time in office, he helped form the theory behind the DFARS Data Rights decision the ONR Contracting Officer used that eventually led to the first ASBCA appeal on a Navy data rights case. He helped develop ONR's Academy of Learning training course and taught the class on Intellectual Property and Contract Data Rights.

Mr. Bechtel's previous OGC assignments included service as an IP attorney in the NAVSEA Office of Counsel where he advised submarine and surface ship Program Managers and Contracting Officers during procurements and source selection boards regarding selection of contract IP and Tech Data clauses. Also, he was the primary IP attorney to give advice to the DON Chief Information Officer's Working Group formulating the Navy's policy on Open Source Software. Prior to that, he served as the Patent Counsel, Naval Surface Warfare Center Division in Dahlgren, Va. He received the NAVSEA-Dahlgren award for Excellence in Science and Technology for his service there. He began his law career as a patent examiner and then as a private practitioner in Philadelphia.

Mr. Bechtel is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and served on active duty as an Air Force officer for five years including a tour in Southeast Asia and Vietnam. He retired from the Air Force Reserves as a Colonel in the Judge Advocate Corps and was awarded the Legion of Merit. He received his Juris Doctor degree from the Delaware Law School of Widener University and is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar and is licensed to practice in front of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO). He resides in Annapolis, Maryland with his wife.