

CLE Webinar: AI-Assisted Patent Pruning - Deciding What to Keep with Precision

Tuesday, September 8, 2026 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ET | 60 Minutes

Format: Live webinar panel discussion moderated by Gene Quinn. The program addresses practical legal and professional considerations in patent portfolio management, AI-assisted analysis, attorney review, and governance.

Description: Patent portfolios frequently expand faster than internal teams can evaluate them. As maintenance fees and prosecution costs accumulate, legal departments must decide where to continue investing, often without complete historical knowledge of business relevance, competitive activity, or licensing and enforcement value. This webinar presents a practical framework for evaluating patent families based on legal status, projected maintenance costs, alignment with current business objectives, claim detectability, competitive overlap, and potential infringement signals. The panel will examine how AI-assisted analysis can help identify high-value assets, expose weak or duplicative coverage, and bring greater structure and better information to decisions that ultimately require experienced human judgment.

Learning Objectives / Topics:

- Identify the evidence needed to evaluate patent assets, including legal status, cost, business alignment, claim scope, and market signals.
- Build a repeatable AI-assisted patent evaluation workflow moving from normalized portfolio data and AI analysis through human review, approval, and audit logging.
- Design an explainable scoring rubric with clear criteria, constrained prompts, defined outputs, and appropriate treatment of missing or uncertain information.
- Validate AI recommendations against attorney judgment by calibrating reviewers, comparing reasoning, investigating disagreements, and refining the process before scaling.
- Apply appropriate governance and human oversight around confidentiality, verification, versioning, overrides, and consequential portfolio decisions.

Faculty:

Mike Scannell, Ph.D. - Director, Legal Counsel - Intellectual Property, Resmed

Dr. Scannell leads IP portfolio management and operations for digital health and medical device technologies, including global patent portfolio development, prosecution strategy, and IP process transformation. He has worked on AI-assisted patent drafting, invention harvesting, portfolio analytics, patent pruning, and broader IP decision-making workflows. Previously in private practice with Dehns (UK) and FRKelly (Ireland), he is a European, UK and Irish Patent Attorney, an authorized representative before the Unified Patent Court, and holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Medicine and an MSc in the Management of Intellectual Property.

Austin Walters - Founder & CEO, IP Copilot

Austin Walters is an ML researcher, engineer, and prolific inventor with 500 granted patents. He has launched multiple generative AI products, led open-source projects, and managed applied research teams for Fortune 100 companies. His work focuses on applying machine learning and generative AI to practical intellectual property workflows and decision-making.

Gene Quinn - Founder & CEO, IPWatchdog, Inc. - Moderator

Gene Quinn is a patent attorney and commentator on patent law and innovation policy. He has been recognized by Managing IP Magazine among the top 50 most influential people in IP and by IAM Magazine as a leading IP strategist. He founded IPWatchdog.com in 1999, advises on patent law, procedure, strategy, and litigation-related matters, and has taught patent law, patent prosecution, claim drafting, copyright, trademark, and introductory IP courses at multiple U.S. law schools. He is admitted in New Hampshire, registered to practice before the USPTO, and admitted before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.