



ALBANY LAW SCHOOL
CENTER FOR LAW & INNOVATION

**Women in Intellectual Property
and the Innovation Ecosystem**

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It is widely known that women are greatly outnumbered by their male counterparts in the field of intellectual property law, and particularly in the patent sector; however, there have been challenges in measuring the extent of the gender imbalance, determining reasons for the disparity, and understanding the potential impact.

At this time, when our patent system in the United States is strained under a backlog of more than a million pending applications, yet is facing an imperative to improve patent quality and timeliness to foster U.S. innovation and competitiveness, an important opportunity exists to examine whether and how greater diversity in the workforce could make a positive difference.

At this program, new data and findings will be presented from an in-depth study that examines women's participation and influence within intellectual property law, as inventors, in fields of science and engineering, and throughout the innovation ecosystem.

This study moves beyond antiquated myths and legends in exploring why a gender imbalance persists, how it affects innovation, and why it matters.

About the Speaker: Prof. Annette I. Kahler is Director of the Albany Law School Center for Law & Innovation and a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law. She teaches intellectual property law and her research interests focus on the legal, social and economic impact of innovation. Prior to joining Albany Law School, Prof. Kahler was CEO and General Counsel of Ascella Technologies in Vienna, Virginia. She was also formerly Vice President, Associate General Counsel, and Director of Intellectual Property at American Management Systems, Inc. in Fairfax, Virginia. Prof. Kahler earned a B.A. from the University of Rochester and a J.D. from George Mason University School of Law. She is admitted to practice law in New York, Virginia and Washington D.C., and is a member of the American Bar Association (ABA), American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), International Trademark Association (INTA), Licensing Executives Society (LES), Eastern New York Intellectual Property Law Association (ENYIPLA), and the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA, IP Section and House of Delegates).