

# BIOFUELS JOURNAL

## Transportation & Logistics Issue



- Unit Trains on the Increase for Transporting Ethanol
- NARs Down 39%
- Transporting & Logistics of Biomass



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BIOFUELS JOURNAL  
3065 Pershing Ct.  
Decatur, IL 62526

CHANGE SERVICE  
REQUESTED

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## Richard B. Hoffman

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*Richard B. Hoffman has practiced intellectual property (patent, trademark, trade secret) law for more than 37 years. Since 2001, he has been a partner of Marshall, Gerstein & Borun, LLP, in Chicago, IL, where he chairs the firm's Cleantech and Renewables industry group. In his spare time, Hoffman enjoys working on his own inventions, especially in biomass-related processing technology; antique collecting; and hunting.*

### Law Firm History

Marshall, Gerstein & Borun was established in 1955 and for many years has prosecuted patents and provided freedom to operate opinions for emerging technologies, such as biodiesel made from animal processing waste and biowaste-to-energy inventions. The firm's Cleantech and Renewables industry practice group was started in 2008 with members from diverse technical backgrounds. Our firm works with numerous green technology companies to protect their inventions, while assisting them in maximizing their profitability, such as through licensing agreements.

### New Service

In 2009, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) announced a new program that permits unexamined green technology applications to move to the front of the line. For clients looking to quickly build their intellectual property portfolios such as to attract financing, the program promised to reduce application pendencies by as much as 12 months while simultaneously eliminating some of the government red-tape. Seizing the opportunity, our firm immediately made use of the program to accelerate appropriate client patent applications.

### New Trends

Recognition of the need to develop alternative renewable energy sources is resulting in greater innovation. Attorneys here at our firm are at the forefront of this trend by working with sustainable technology companies to protect their inventions and maximize their profitability. Also, our patent attorneys are increasingly handling intellectual property matters for foreign-based green technology companies seeking to introduce their products and services in the United States.

### Outlook

Biofuel-related and other green technologies will continue to be invented and flourish. We'll no doubt see more lawsuits on patents and trade secrets involving these technical areas, along with more joint research and development and licensing agreements.

*Jerry Perkins, editor*

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