

Peter N. Fowler

Peter N. Fowler is the founder and principal of *Fowler SEAsia/Pacific IP Advisors*, a consulting practice focusing on art, entertainment, and intellectual property matters in Southeast Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. He is a Senior Intellectual Property Consultant with BMVN International LLC, a fully licensed local law firm and IP agent in Vietnam, operating in strategic alliance with Baker & McKenzie (Vietnam) Ltd.; and a Senior Intellectual Property Consultant with the Mane Law Firm, a premier, full-service law firm in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Prior to his retirement in early 2026, after more than 30 years in the U.S. Federal Service, he served as Senior Counsel for Enforcement, Office of Policy and International Affairs, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), in the U.S. Department of Commerce. Having joined the USPTO as an Attorney-Advisor for Copyright, he served as facilitator of the Conference on Fair Use (1995-1998), authoring its three reports; as agency Chief of Staff (1998-2002); Acting Deputy Administrator for External Affairs (2002, 2009-2010); Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO (2009-2011); and as the Regional Intellectual Property Attaché for Southeast Asia (2011-2017), based at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.

During his public sector career, he served as a technical advisor to the U.S. Trade Representative on IP and trade-related matters, including trade negotiations with Australia, Bahrain, Cambodia, Japan, Colombia, Oman, Malaysia, Morocco, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the UAE, and Vietnam. As an advisor on Vietnam, he participated in negotiation of the U.S.-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement and discussions on implementation of the World Trade Organization TRIPs Agreement; drafted the 1997 Agreement on Establishment of Copyright Relations between Vietnam and the U.S.; and advised on the Agreement on Reciprocal Tariffs in 2025. He also served on the U.S. negotiating teams for the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement; Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement; U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement; and Japan-U.S. Regulatory Reform Commission meetings.

From 1997-2025, he was an Executive Branch advisor on APEC IP matters, and an official delegate to the APEC Intellectual Property Experts Group (IPEG) meetings. He served as head of the U.S. delegation to the *WIPO High Level Forum on the Global Intellectual Property Infrastructure for Promotion of Innovation* (Tokyo); *WIPO Global Symposium on Broadcasting, New Communication Technologies and Intellectual Property* (Manila); *UNESCO/WIPO World Forum on the Protection of Folklore* (Thailand); and to meetings of the WIPO Advisory Committee on Enforcement in Geneva.

Peter has a long history in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, as the first USPTO attorney to organize IP programs in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Fiji, Guam, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Northern Mariana Islands, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. He initiated the USPTO-ASEAN Secretariat partnership on technical assistance cooperation and, for more than 20 years, was principal liaison and interlocutor for USPTO with the ASEAN Working Group on IP Cooperation. He served on the Advisory Board of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Region (2012-2024), and regularly co-organized in-person and online programs and study visits with ASEAN, Oceania Customs Organization, Pacific Islands Forum, and the Singapore-United States Third Country Training Program for government officials from the region.

He is a recipient of three U.S. Department of Commerce Gold Medal Awards for Distinguished Achievement in the Federal Service; three U.S. Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Awards for Distinguished Achievement in the Federal Service; three USPTO Special Act Awards; a USPTO Director's Award; and the 2013 Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines IP Champion Award.

Admitted to the bar in California and before various U.S. Federal courts, he practiced copyright, trademark, and entertainment law with a boutique law firm in San Francisco, California (1985-1995), advising and representing artists, authors, art galleries, film and media organizations, filmmakers, screenwriters, software developers, and performers, and serving as a legal advisor on film and theatrical productions. Among other things, he served as legal counsel for the San Francisco State University Poetry Center and American Poetry Archives; legal counsel,

and on the board of directors, of Frameline, a media arts and international film festival organization (1987-1995), during which time he served as Interim Executive Director (1991-1992); and as legal counsel and on the advisory board of the San Francisco Silent Film Festival. He is a member of California Lawyers for the Arts, an avid arts supporter, has appeared in stage and film productions, and earlier in his life, hosted a radio program.

Peter has authored articles on such topics as copyright and fair use, IP and trade; history of IP protection in Southeast Asia; IPR systems in Laos and Myanmar; copyright law in the Asian-Pacific region; and the history and legacy of the Japan Patent Office-USPTO relationship. The National Bureau of Asian Research published his commentaries on U.S.-ASEAN cooperation and judicial engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. He taught as an adjunct faculty member at Golden Gate University School of Law; California State University, East Bay; Martin University; Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, in Medellin, Colombia; University of California College of the Law, San Francisco; and University of San Francisco College of Professional Studies.

Peter has a Juris Doctor from Golden Gate University School of Law; M.A. in Political Science from Ball State University; M.A. in Secondary Education from the University of Alabama; B.A. in Political Science from John Carroll University; and did post-graduate study at Indiana Wesleyan University in secondary education. He externed for Justice Marcel Poché, of the California Court of Appeal, First District, during law school, and clerked for Justice A.M. Gunderson, of the Supreme Court of Nevada, after graduation from law school.