



How We Work with Law Firms: FAQ

Q1. What does a typical engagement with GPS look like?

Most law firms come to us with a specific matter: patent application drafting stage, a filing on the horizon, a potential assertion or a dispute that may head toward litigation.

We start with a short scoping conversation to clarify the search type/legal objective, the technology, jurisdictions to be searched, report format, special requests, timing and budget. From there, we propose a search scope with related quote or confirmation, execute the work, provide optional check-ins or updates and deliver final results according to your reporting preferences.

Q2. What information do you need from us to start a search?

At minimum, we'll ask you for:

- The type of search (patentability, invalidity/validity, clearance/freedom-to-operate (FTO), landscape, custom, etc.).
- The invention description or patent(s) at issue.
- Any known references (examiner citations, inventor searches, competitor patents).
- Key dates and deadlines.
- Budget restrictions.
- Any specific concerns or “what keeps you up at night” questions about the matter.

If you've already been a client of ours, we'll use previous preferences as a starting point rather than duplicating work.

Q3. Who will be my contact person on your side?

You'll work with a dedicated point of contact at GPS plus one or more research analysts with relevant technical and search expertise. Our team is entirely U.S.-based, protecting confidentiality and providing deep experience in domains like software/AI, electronics, biotech, med devices, mechanical systems, chemical/materials and more. You're not interacting with a generic ticket system—you have human experts you can talk to.

Q4. How do you tailor your process to different kinds of matters?

A novelty search for a new application, a clearance opinion and a high-stakes invalidity battle do not call for the same search. We adjust:

- Scope (breadth vs. depth, jurisdictions, time ranges).
- Databases and tools (patents vs. nonpatent literature, foreign collections, prosecution histories).
- Reporting format (high-level overview vs. detailed claim chart-style analysis).

You tell us the legal objective and your preferences; we design the search and the output to support that objective.

Q5. How do timeline and turnaround work?

Deadlines are nonnegotiable in your world, so they're nonnegotiable in ours.

On the initial call, we'll ask:

- Your hard deadlines (office actions, filing dates, hearings, internal client deadlines).
- Where flexibility does or doesn't exist.

We'll then propose a realistic turnaround and, if needed, a staged approach (for example, an initial "quick look" check-in followed by a deeper dive if warranted). With over 100 research analysts, we are very flexible to provide any needed turnaround. Most of our work is completed before the agreed-upon deadline.

Q6. How do we communicate during a project?

Your time is very valuable. We want to provide the right amount of communication to best fit your needs. We are flexible to provide as much or as little communication as you prefer. You can schedule calls or exchange email as needed, but many matters run smoothly with one up-front scoping call, written updates as we progress and, if preferred, a final review call to walk through results. If you prefer, we can accommodate your firm's collaboration tools or portals for sharing documents.

Q7. How do you handle follow-up questions or refinements?

Search is rarely one-and-done. If results raise new questions, if the case shifts or if you want to explore a particular line of art further, we can:

- Refine the search strategy.
- Add jurisdictions or term sets.
- Provide additional reporting around specific references.

We're a research partner, not a one-off vendor—you can come back to the same team as the matter evolves.

Q8. How do conflicts and confidentiality work?

We treat conflicts and confidentiality with the same seriousness you do. Before taking on new work, we will:

- Screen for conflicts.
- Work under NDAs or your standard engagement language as required.
- Operate entirely within secure, U.S.-based environments consistent with federal and USPTO expectations.

If you have particular conflicts procedures, we'll align with them.

Q9. How is pricing structured?

Pricing depends on the type, scope and urgency of the search. We commonly work on:

- Fixed-fee pricing for well-scoped searches.
- Tiered options (e.g., bull's-eye vs. deep dive) so you can decide how far to go.
- Programmatic arrangements for firms with recurring work.

We'll talk frankly about budget on the front end and recommend a level of effort that matches both the legal risk and your client's expectations.

Q10. What's the best way to try out GPS if we've never worked together?

Many firms start with:

- A single novelty or invalidity search to benchmark our quality.
- A difficult or time-sensitive matter where internal capacity is stretched.
- A cleanup assignment where they want to validate prior vendor work.

From there, they typically expand use to preparation and prosecution, clearance and portfolio work as they see the difference in GPS responsiveness and the quality of results.