


J. Wesley Wilson

(813) 230-9958 

Wes.Wilson@FoundationsIT.com 

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/weswilson> 



Attorney, Retail & Technology Expert, Executive

Accomplished business executive and technology enthusiast who thrives on applying the right technology to deliver powerful solutions to complex business challenges. Extensive history of successful enterprise project delivery in the areas of software development, digital commerce, security, strategy, and infrastructure. A hands-on leader who is equally comfortable debugging software with developers or negotiating contractual terms with the legal team.

Skills

- Executive Leadership
- Retail Practices
- P&L Ownership
- Team Building
- Project Rescue
- Program Management
- Contract Negotiation
- Software Development
- Software Architecture
- Security Best Practices
- Digital Transformation
- Retail Systems
- Broadband Networks
- Strategy Development
- Operations Management
- Systems/Network Security
- PCI/DSS Compliance
- Database Administration
- Systems Patching/Mgmt.
- Network Management
- Cross-functional Projects

Brand Experiences



THE LIMITED



THE CHILDREN'S PLACE

HOT TOPIC



BON-TON belk

TALBOTS

G-MAC APPAREL

COLDWATER Creek



J. Gill

EILEEN FISHER

annie selke

PINE CONE HILL · DASH & ALBERT



Career

2022 – CURRENT

Vice President, Information Technology / Eileen Fisher

Technology executive leading the Information Technology team with oversight of all hardware, software, project management, and helpdesk services. Responsible for expense and capital budgets, information security, and incident response.

2023 – CURRENT

Owner / Carrick Marine Supply LLC

2016 – CURRENT

Owner / Foundations IT, Inc.

2009 – 2016

Vice President, Information Technology / The Talbots Inc.

Organizational leadership of approximately 100 team members supporting the technology needs of over ten thousand store and business associates. Mainframes, Servers, Desktops, Telecommunications, Security, Contracting/Procurement, Helpdesk, Database Administration, Strategy, and End User Support. P&L responsibility of approximately \$50M.

2009 – 2010

Chief Technologist / Bridge Five Solutions

Built and managed a team of software developers to deliver the founders vision of a new automated Voice Over IP system for insurance companies. From cocktail napkin to successful sale to Star2Star Communications in approximately 12 months. Concurrent with Talbots employment.

2008 – 2009

Director, Technical Services / The Talbots Inc.

Organizational leadership of approximately 50 team members supporting all hardware, operating systems, architecture, and security needs of the organization. Mainframes, Servers, Desktops, Security, Database Administration. P&L responsibility of approximately \$20M.

2002 – 2008

Application Architect / The Talbots Inc.

Sole architect responsible for the review and approval of all application designs inclusive of infrastructure topology, application architecture, coding practices, and security considerations across a portfolio of approximately 350 business applications.

2001 – 2002

Project Manager / The Talbots Inc. via Tallan Inc.

Responsible for the delivery of client projects on schedule and on budget usually managing two or three concurrent projects with teams of four developers. Developing E-Commerce systems, warehouse systems, stock and management, and data warehousing.

1999 – 2001

Software Developer / The Talbotts Inc. via Tallan Inc.

Software developer and team leader developing E-Commerce software and warehouse replenishment systems in a variety of software languages.

1998 – 1999

Software Developer / General Electric via Arcadia Staffing

Software developer remediating code for year 2000 rollover defects and developing line of business applications for routing plastics and monitoring manufacturing lines.

1995 – 1998

Developer & Systems Admin / SIU Dept. of Public Safety

Administered, patched, and maintained system backups for the Department of Public Safety. Wrote software for portable ticket machines and provided computer assistance to officers and administrators.

Education

2021

Harvard Business School

Certificate class: Reimagining Strategy with Design Thinking (Feb 2021)

Certificate class: Strategic Negotiations (May 2021)

2013-2017

Western Michigan University / Cooley Law School

Juris doctorate with Tax concentration, Cum Laude, first time bar exam pass. Licensed in Florida.

1994-1998

Southern Illinois University / Carbondale

Bachelor of Science, Major in Computer Science and Minor in Mathematics.

2017 – PRESENT

Continuing Legal Education (CLEs)

Basic Appellate Practice (2021)

Basic Discovery (2021)

Basic Bankruptcy (2021)

Be an Expert in Handling Experts: Best Practices for Expert Designation (2021)

Racism in the Workplace (2021)

2020 Advanced Wealth Protection Program (2021)

Data Breach Litigation – An Update (2021)

Digital IP: Helping Clients Protect, Defend & Recover Intellectual Property Rights Online, In Social Media & E-Commerce Platforms (2021)

Practicing with the Machines: Artificial Intelligence, Automation, & Technology Tools (2021)

Practicing with Professionalism (2018)

Expert Witness & Related Services

The Moody Law Firm (Active)

Timothy Miller v. Norfolk Southern, et. al.

Civil Action No. 23EV004484

Retained by Plaintiff

Georgia

Expert witness analyzing IT department practices pertaining to Microsoft Teams technology, deployment, and training practices. Expert report and trial testimony anticipated.

US Department of Justice (Active)

United States of America v. Imran Alrai

1:18-CR-00192 (JL)

Retained by Prosecution

New Hampshire

Expert witness analyzing IT services and staffing spending by Imran Alrai, CIO of United Way of Massachusetts Bay, through his own companies in relation to wire fraud and money laundering charges. Authored two reports, trial testimony anticipated.

Sheridan Ross

MOV-ology LLC v. BigCommerce Holdings, Inc. et al.

6:22-cv-00084-ADA (W.D. Tex)

Validity Expert

Retained by Plaintiff

Case resolved prior to work being performed. No report or testimony given.

Jones Day

Alexsam v. Simon Property Group, L.P., et. al.

Non-Infringement Expert

2:19-CV-00331-JRG-RSP

Retained by Defendant (US Bank)

Texas/Ohio

Expert witness report on infringement claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,000,608 concerning giftcards and banking networks. No testimony given.

Toler Law Group

Patent Viability Opinion/Alice Analysis

Retained by Plaintiff

Authored a private opinion on the viability of U.S. Patent 8,005,747 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and Alice Corp. v. CLS Bank Int'l, 134 S. Ct. 2347, 2355 (2014). No testimony given.

Arthur Chapman Kettering Smetak & Pikala

American Crystal Sugar v. Biber & Associates

0:19-cv-02319 (Minnesota)

Retained by Defendant

American Crystal and Biber & Associates litigated a failed software package implementation. Performed as an expert witness reviewing project documentation, management reports, interviewing team members, and inspecting the work completed prior to project termination. Authored an Expert Report and Rebuttal Report, offered deposition testimony.

Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth (CA)

(2020) Confidential Arbitration

Retained by Defendant

California – 2020

Reviewed materials related to a Managed Service Provider (MSP) whose client suffered a ransomware attack and attributed the breach to the MSPs performance of services. Assisted the attorney in deposition preparation and the matter resolved afterwards. No report, deposition, or testimony.

Mergers & Acquisitions

2022

Owned Retail / Specialized Bicycle Components Inc.

Development of a short/medium/long range strategic vision for global technology to manage a diverse set of technologies acquired in owned retail stores as SBC grows through acquisition of small, independent regional retailers.

2021

Confidential / Confidential

Executive leadership and advisory services to an early-stage SaaS startup creating a product roadmap, technology strategy, and evaluating commercial feasibility within the b2b retail market.

2018

West Jefferson DC / Sycamore

Engaged by Sycamore Partners to assist in a bankruptcy bid for the West Jefferson distribution center outside Columbus during Bon Ton's bankruptcy. The West Jefferson DC was a new center built shortly before Bon Ton's bankruptcy and then mothballed; it had never been fully operationalized. Crash project to un-mothball the DC, test all systems, identify any additional costs to operationalize, and provide input in the offer presented to the bankruptcy court. Successful bid, purchase.

2017

The Limited IP Acquisition / Sycamore

Program leader of diligence team tasked with identifying all relevant intellectual property for customers, merchandise designs, product history, and related information to inform bidding. Post purchase, responsible for collecting all key information and systems and re-launching those systems within the Belk IT environment to make this brand data accessible to the Belk team. Included digital forensics engagement to ensure safety of Belk systems from The Limited systems.

2014

Coldwater Creek IP Acquisition / Sycamore

Due diligence team member sent to Coeur D'Alene to interview staff and review systems technology. Management of a team tasked with identifying and collecting all customer information, transferring this data, and building a new system for Sycamore to analyze and use the information across their other brands.

2012

Talbots Acquisition / Sycamore

Deal team participant responsible for answering questions about architecture, investments, potential changes, or eliminations post purchase, and facilitating and ordered flow of information from various IT teams to potential buyers.

2009

J. Jill Divestiture / Talbots

Deal team participant responsible for answering questions about separating technology systems, contracts, costs, and feasibility. Post-divestiture, program manager for separating systems, transferring data, and negotiating the separation of hundreds of technology contracts.

2006

J. Jill Acquisition / Talbots

Due diligence team participant responsible for evaluating the IT assets of J. Jill in preparation of a purchase bid. Post-acquisition, the program manager for exiting staff, merging systems, and unifying all information technology aspects of both companies.

Recurring or Unique Activities

AI Committee Leader

With general counsel, co-chair of the corporate working committee on the ethical and safe adoption of Artificial Intelligence into the Eileen Fisher operating environment. Policy development, ideation working groups, investment and ROI analysis, implementation and oversight of prototypes and proofs of concept within the organization.

Incident Response / Two Occurrences

Direct management experience on the response to two material security incidents. First, when an external actor breached and compromised a commercial website. At the time, there was no formal incident response plan. Tasked to coordinate the internal response across executives, technical staff, and authorities. Managed the identification, response, and remediation of the breach. Second, when a hostile employee used a list of privileged IDs to access systems after being terminated. Responsible for the technical response in identifying the accessed systems, the likely compromised data, and coordinating 3rd party forensics efforts.

Disaster Recovery - BCDR / Multiple Companies

At Talbots for over 10 years, also with J. Jill, Limited/Belk, and at The Children's Place managed back up, recovery, and disaster recovery testing at both onsite and off-site facilities. Familiar with systems recovery, common issues, and misses, rto/rpo, business expectations, and recovery into dissimilar environments when either unprepared or during m&a.

PCI Compliance / Multiple Companies

Initially hired and formalized the IT security team at Talbots. Ongoing operational responsibility throughout career for management of security related processes such as patching, upgrading, firewall management, intrusion detection, and responses. Working in retail, PCI matters are an intrinsic facet of most projects listed in this CV.

Audit Response / Multiple Companies

Organizational management and responsibility for team activities responding to and supporting common annual audit activities including Sarbanes Oxley, PCI/DSS, Cyber Insurance, and OCC audits.

Project History – Since 2015

2024

Business Intelligence / Eileen Fisher

Executive technology sponsor driving overall program for business intelligence and data adoption through the organization.

2024

CRM Strategy / Eileen Fisher

Executive technology sponsor formulating CRM strategy and technology footprint for next 5 years

2024

POS Strategy / Eileen Fisher

Executive technology sponsor formulating POS strategy and technology footprint for next 5 years

2023

Digital Returns / Eileen Fisher

Executive technology sponsor implementing digital returns eliminating paper return labels and reducing company carbon footprint.

2023

Surepost / Eileen Fisher

Executive technology sponsor implementing Surepost shipping within a distribution facility

2023

Global-E / Eileen Fisher

Executive technology sponsor deploying Global-E international commerce platform

2023

Veesual AI / Eileen Fisher

Executive technology sponsor deploying Veesual AI capabilities into EileenFisher.com

2023

Microsoft D365 / Eileen Fisher

Executive technology sponsor deploying Microsoft D365

2023

Centric PLM/VIP / Eileen Fisher

Executive technology sponsor deploying Centric PLM and VIP suite

2023

Pre-Order / Eileen Fisher

Executive technology sponsor adding pre-order purchasing capabilities to EileenFisher.com

2022

Manhattan WMS Deployment / Eileen Fisher

Executive technology sponsor of Manhattan WMS deployment

2022

RMS Evaluation/ Specialized Bicycle Components

Scoping, requirements gathering, and vendor evaluation for a Retail Management System (RMS) to operate owned retail stores across 40+ countries.

2022

BI Strategy Development/ Eileen Fisher

Establish a long-term BI strategy and roadmap against which tactical projects through the year can be aligned during the purchase, contract, and implementation phases. Establish a best practices org chart, tool selection, and data governance practices.

2021

IT Strategy Development/ Annie Selke Companies

Executive engagement to review infrastructure, security, and architecture for opportunities and to develop an overall 3-year Information Technology strategy to enable align with an anticipated rapid growth in retail sales.

2021

Business Intelligence / Eileen Fisher

Managing the creation of an internal business intelligence platform based on Microsoft Analysis Services and eliminating the incumbent vendor and associated costs.

2020-2021

Expense Cutting / Eileen Fisher

Review of IT expenditures, contracts, and services identifying areas of reducible or negotiable spending to reduce expense costs.

2020-2021

Expense Cutting / The Children's Place

Review of IT and Store Operations expenditures, contracts, and services identifying areas of reducible or negotiable spending to reduce expense costs.

2020

SaaS Architecture Review / Loffa Interactive

Architectural review and strategy development to migrate from legacy ASPX architecture to a REST based web services architecture leveraging React front end framework.

2019

Store Refresh Architecture & Strategy / Coldwater Creek

Engaged by Coldwater CIO to review, challenge, and enhance his team's proposal for a store technology refresh encompassing registers, payment devices, payment software, security, architecture, and the customer's interaction with these technologies.

2019

Point of Sale Replacement / The Children's Place

Program management of a multi-year project to replace the point of sale software on approximately three thousand cash registers and develop/implement a new mobile point of sale application for handheld devices. Led original RFP, vendor selection, contracting, implementation, and final rollout.

2019

Third Party Risk Management / Loffa Interactive

Top to bottom review of application architecture, security practices, dev ops processes to identify issues and create standardized responses to common third-party risk assessment questionnaires that Loffa would respond with when answering Requests For Proposals.

2019

Website Development / HEAD Golf Apparel

Green field development of a commerce platform encompassing inventory, sales, customers, pricing, promotions, credit card processing called Concise Retail. Integrations with 3rd party credit card processing, shipping, and communications platforms. HEAD Golf Apparel was the beta customer on the platform.

2018

Cash Register Replacement / The Children's Place

Program management for the bidding, selection, and implementation of new cash registers. Included facilitating demo's and internal usability analysis with store and field operations, 3rd party bidding of the selected hardware, operating system and application images, CIS security hardening and penetration testing, deployment planning and execution.

2018

Windows XP to Windows 10 Upgrade / The Children's Place

Program management for the effort to upgrade all cash registers from Windows XP to Windows 10. Inclusive of inventorying all installed applications and doing compatibility testing, building new Windows 10 image and hardening against CIS guidelines, facilitating outcomes between the security and app dev teams to secure the environment without affecting business features, certification, and deployment.

2018

West Jefferson Purchase / Sycamore / Hot Topic / Bon Ton

Engaged by Sycamore Partners to assist in a bankruptcy bid for the West Jefferson distribution center outside Columbus during Bon Ton's bankruptcy. The West Jefferson DC was a new center built shortly before Bon Ton's bankruptcy and then mothballed; it had never been fully operationalized. Crash project to un-mothball the DC, test all systems, identify any additional costs to operationalize, and provide input in the offer presented to the bankruptcy court. Successful bid, purchase.

2018

VOIP Deployment / The Children's Place

Program management for a new VOIP phone system in approximately a thousand stores across the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Responsible for RFP, bidding, contracting, and managing store implementations.

2017

Meraki & Broadband Upgrade / The Children's Place

Crisis project. In August, the CEO learned that all store networks needed additional broadband capacity to handle the holiday application features they were advertising. Engaged last week of August to refresh broadband in a thousand stores, typically a year or more project, with direction to accomplish it by the 2nd week of November (14 weeks). Executed RFP for equipment, circuits, and wireless. Leveraged store field associates for configuration/boxing, converted corporate cafeteria to a warehouse for staging and assembly, and organized multiple parallel teams to handle installs and field conversions. Accomplished approximately 800 of 1000 stores by the November freeze date.

2016

E-Commerce Strategy Development / G-MAC Apparel

G-MAC Apparel, a startup golf apparel company, sought assistance in reviewing their website platform, marketing strategy, and developing a growth strategy for online sales.

2016

Microsoft Office Upgrade / Talbots

Program management of Microsoft Office Upgrade across corporate computers.

2016

Cisco UCM Upgrade / Talbots

Program management of Cisco Unified Communications manager upgrade across retail stores, corporate facilities, and call centers.

2015-2016

mPos and Clientele Development (Mad-Mobile) / Talbots

Program management for security, technology, architecture, and deployment of a co-developed mobile point of sale and clientele application by the Talbots and Mad Mobile software development teams.

2015

Ecommerce Network Refresh / Talbots

Program management on a refresh of the network and security environment supporting the Talbots.com website. Replacement of load balancers, security appliances, firewalls, switches, and related infrastructure across two distribution centers. Implemented distributed routing and caching via Akamai. Deprecation of obsolete cipher algorithms and minor application updates for compatibility.

2015

Ecommerce Re-Architecture/Re-Platform / Talbots

Program management on a re-platform of the computing infrastructure supporting the Talbots.com website. Converted from farms of standalone servers to a fully virtualized server environment on Cisco's unified computing platform.

2015

Ecommerce Disaster Recovery & Continuity / Talbots

Program management to enhance the business continuity and disaster recovery abilities for Talbots.com website. Building atop the Network Refresh and Re-Platform Projects, built out a second data center, virtualized all backups, enabled real time data replication for all app and database servers, and reduced the RPO from hours to minutes and the RTO from days to hours.

2015

Cyber Security Assessment (Cisco) / Talbots

Participant in external cyber security assessment validating the security practices and posture of the teams operational and infrastructure practices.

2015

Call Center Resiliency (Cameo) / Talbots

Program management implementing resiliency and business continuity processes with a 3rd party call center partner who lacked adequate processes of their own.

2015

Store Wireless Upgrade 3G to LTE / Talbots

Program management to upgrade store wireless backup networks from 3G to 4G/LTE while upgrading all in store routers and firewalls.

2015

MI9 Implementation / Talbots

Technical program management, architecture, security, and operational management for an MI9 application implementation.

2015

Store Windows Tablet Deployment / Talbots

Program management for the evaluation, selection, and implementation of tablet computing devices in stores. Included building images, security hardening, patching and ongoing patch management processes.

2015

Cash Register Memory Upgrades / Talbots

Program management for the installation of additional memory in all cash registers.

2015

Office Construction & Move / Talbots

Program management for the re-negotiation of office lease terms and the reconstruction of two floors of office space and the move of staff into the renovated offices.

2015

Digital Backups & Tape Elimination / Talbots

Program management eliminating all tape backups, converting to digital backups with offsite data replication, testing and recovery procedures.