

Managing Intellectual Property

The Global IP Resource

MIP AWARDS DINNER 2007

01 April 2007

MIP's second annual Awards Dinner was held at Claridge's in London last month, with more than 250 guests coming from as far away as Australia, Japan, Argentina and Chile

A total of 45 trophies were presented to the IP firms of the year in 35 jurisdictions, as well as special awards recognizing pan-European work, the case of the year, in-house team of the year and outstanding individual achievement.

This accolade went to Tove Graulund, for her work on behalf of trade mark owners as chair of MARQUES. Google was named in-house team of the year and the case of the year was the US Supreme Court dispute between eBay and MercExchange.

Full details of the winners, as well as photos from the Awards Dinner and reception, are featured on the following pages.

The MIP awards follow the publication of the magazine's well-established IP survey in February and March this year. As part of the work for the survey, MIP's researchers asked for recommendations for firms that have had an outstanding year in any aspect of IP work. Based on these recommendations, shortlists were drawn up for each jurisdiction and the winners were selected from these shortlists.

The event featured a Champagne reception with a blues and jazz band, followed by a three-course dinner, cigars and port. There was a jazz bar open until late. MIP's raffle raised more than £3,000 for the nominated charity Orbis, which works to eliminate blindness and restore sight in the developing world.

The raffle prizes were: dinner for two at Gordon Ramsay's restaurant in London, a bottle of vintage Dom Perignon Champagne and a hamper from Fortnum & Mason.



ARGENTINA

Winner: Marval O'Farrell & Mairal

Marval O'Farrell & Mairal, long recognized as the leading IP firm in Argentina, scored a notable victory for its client Uniroyal in 2006. The company was awarded \$300,000 in damages – the largest award ever made in a patent infringement case in the country – after the Federal Court of Appeal found that Ipsa had infringed a Uniroyal patent. The company was represented by Martín Bensadon, one of eight specialist IP partners.

Shortlist

G Breuer

Marval O'Farrell & Mairal

Noetinger & Armando

Obligado & Cia

Richelet & Richelet



AUSTRALIA

Winner: Davies Collison Cave

Davies Collison Cave remains the leading prosecution practice in Australia and boasts a well-established legal team. In the past 12 months the firm has advised Unilin Beheer in a patent infringement case in which indemnity costs were awarded against the infringing party and is working with Ralph Lauren to stop parallel imports of grey goods.

Shortlist

Allens Arthur Robinson

Blake Dawson Waldron
 Davies Collison Cave
 Griffith Hack
 Mallesons Stephen Jaques
 Spruson & Ferguson

BELGIUM

Winner: Howrey LLP

Just two years after opening its Brussels office, Howrey is making a big impact in litigation in the jurisdiction. In the past year it has represented Philips and Sara Lee in a case over indirect patent infringement and also acts for Pfizer in its battles with Ranbaxy.

Shortlist

Bird & Bird
 De Clercq Brants & Partners
 Gevers & Partners
 Howrey LLP
 NautaDutilh



BRAZIL

Winner: Dannemann Siemsen Bigler & Ipanema Moreira

Ranked in the top tier in all areas of IP work, Dannemann Siemsen Bigler & Ipanema Moreira stands ahead of all its rivals in Brazil. It has a total staff of some 500 people covering IP prosecution and legal work, and has also carved out a niche advising on related environment issues.

Shortlist

Daniel Advogados
 Dannemann Siemsen
 Momsen Leonardos & Cia



CANADA: TRADE MARKS/COPYRIGHT

Winner: Dimock Stratton LLP

Dimock Stratton has been at the centre of some of the most innovative and important trade mark and copyright cases in Canada in recent years. It scored a major victory for Mega Bloks in a fight against rival Lego over three-dimensional trade marks at the end of 2005, and was back at the Court last year representing journalist Heather Robertson in a copyright fight with Thomson Corporation.

Shortlist

Bereskin & Parr
 Blake Cassels & Graydon LLP
 Dimock Stratton LLP
 Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
 Smart & Biggar/Fetherstonhaugh & Co



CANADA: PATENTS

Winner: Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP

One of the biggest IP practices in Canada, Gowlings offers quality as well as quantity. In 2006, it acted for international clients in some of the most important patent cases in Canada and it also benefited from a merger with technology specialist Marlay & Ford in Kanata.

Shortlist

Bereskin & Parr
 Dimock Stratton LLP
 Goodmans LLP
 Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP



Smart & Biggar/Fetherstonhaugh & Co

CHILE

Winner: Sargent & Krahn

With 13 professionals, Sargent & Krahn is one of the most experienced IP firms in Chile. In the past year it has scored notable victories for Unilever over the trade mark Maizena and Citroen over the use of the mark Picasso, and (in one of the first cases under the country's new fast-track civil procedure) helped Merck & Co defend its patent rights for the drug efavirenz.

Shortlist

Estudio Federica Villaseca

Estudio Harnecker

Johansson & Langlois

Porzio Rios & Associates

Sargent & Krahn



CHINA

Winner: Liu Shen & Associates

Liu Shen & Associates is one of the largest IP firms in China, with 21 partners and 190 associates helping to keep the firm at the top of a competitive IP market. The firm is a pioneer in high-tech IP work in China and regular clients include Sony, Samsung, Siemens, Thomson and IBM.

Shortlist

CCPIT

China Patent Agent

King & Wood

Liu Shen & Associates



CHINA: FOREIGN FIRMS

Winner: Baker & McKenzie

Baker & McKenzie's offices in Hong Kong, Beijing and Shanghai enable it to provide top-quality service to western clients looking to invest in China. Though non-Chinese firms are restricted in the work they can do on the mainland, they can play a key role in coordinating and managing enforcement work. Last year Baker & McKenzie advised US coffee chain Starbucks in its trade mark victory over Shanghai Xingbake Coffee Shop in the Shanghai No 2 Intermediate People's Court, which was upheld by the High Court in January this year.

Shortlist

Baker & McKenzie

Lovells

Rouse & Co International



COLOMBIA

Winner: Cavalier Abogados

Cavalier Abogados has 36 practitioners in Colombia. Alongside its effective prosecution practice, it has handled litigation for Louis Vuitton, Laura Ashley and Harrods among others in recent years.

Shortlist

Baker & McKenzie

Brigard & Castro

Cavalier Abogados

Jose Lloreda Camacho & Co



DENMARK

Winner: Kromann Reumert

Kromann Reumert is consistently rated in the top tier for litigation in all areas of IP in Denmark.



Shortlist

Bech-Bruun
Chas Hude
Kromann Reumert
Plesner
Zacco

FINLAND

Winner: Roschier, Attorneys Ltd

Leading law firm Roschier ranks in the top tier for both patent and trade mark/copyright contentious work, giving it an unrivalled reputation in Finland.



Shortlist

Backstrom & Co
Berggren
Kolster
Roschier, Attorneys Ltd

FRANCE

Winner: Veron & Associés

For the second year running, Veron has been recognized in the MIP awards for its achievement in litigation in France. In the past year it has represented Bayer CropScience over a patent for GM corn, Air Liquide in a case over liquid gas bottles and 3M in a dispute over a drug-processing patent.



Shortlist

Cabinet Beau de Lomenie
Cabinet Plasseraud
Casalonga
Veron & Associés

GERMANY

Winner: Rospatt Osten Pross

Dusseldorf and Munich-based Rospatt Osten Pross has established itself as one of the leaders in IP litigation in Europe's biggest market. It has handled important cases for Sagem (against Nokia in the first case over mobile phone designs) and Sara Lee over coffee pad patents. Partner Thomas Musmann represented GaT in the landmark case over cross-border injunctions, decided by the ECJ in July 2006.



Shortlist

Bardehle Pagenberg
Bird & Bird
Grunecker Kinkeldey
Hoffmann Eitle
Klaka
Lovells
Rospatt Osten Pross

HONG KONG

Winner: Deacons

The IP practice at Deacons has an outstanding reputation for all areas of IP and handles the largest portfolio of trade marks in Hong Kong. A true pioneer in the field, Deacons made the first ever e-filing under Hong Kong's computerized system and has repeatedly been the biggest user of the system since it began in 2003.

Shortlist

Deacons
Baker & McKenzie
Lovells

Wilkinson & Grist

INDIA

Winner: Anand and Anand

Anand and Anand has done a remarkable amount of high-profile litigation in the past year, including advising cigarette lighter company Zippo in the first case in India involving a registered shape trade mark. Lawyers from the firm also acted for Kensoft Infotech in India's first case on non-literal infringement of source code and for Samsung on a series of seven cases aimed at preventing parallel importation of toner cartridges from China.

Shortlist

Anand and Anand

D P Ahuja

Remfry & Sagar

IRELAND

Winner: McCann FitzGerald

McCann FitzGerald has one of the most active IP practices of any law firm in Ireland, with 10 practitioners, and has acted in a number of important cases recently, advising Boston Scientific in its dispute with Conor Medsystems over heart stent catheters, the Zockoll Group in an appeal over a bad faith trade mark application and Applied Medical Resources in a breach of contract case.

Shortlist

FR Kelly & Co

McCann Fitzgerald

Whitney Moore

William Fry



ITALY

Winner: Studio Torta

Recognized as a leader in both patent and trade mark filing, as well as having a solid contentious practice, Studio Torta is a 25-partner firm which boasts clients such as Ferrari, Bridgestone and TetraPak.

Shortlist

Jacobacci & Associati

Studio Legale Sena & Tarchini

Studio Torta

Studio Vanzetti

Trevisan & Cuonzo



JAPAN

Winner: Nakamura & Partners

Nakamura & Partners is one of Japan's biggest IP boutiques, with 20 partners, seven assistant partners and 37 associates. High-profile litigation cases in the past 12 months have included advising Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency on a case concerning computer software. Attorney-at-law Kazuhiko Yoshida was part of a team that represented Yomiuri Giants and nine other baseball clubs in a suit over image rights in the contracts of professional baseball players.

Shortlist

Nakamura & Partners

Seiwa Patent & Law

Yuasa & Hara

KOREA

Winner: Kim & Chang

Kim & Chang is the largest IP firm in Asia, with 163 practitioners helping to keep it "at the forefront" of IP work in Korea, according to a peer. One of the senior partners, Man-Gi Paik, is vice president of the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI) and a member of the Intellectual Property Protection Policy Committee of the prime minister's office.

Shortlist

Firstlaw Lee & Ko

Kim & Chang

Y P Lee Mock & Partners

You Me Patent & Law Firm



MALAYSIA

Winner: Shearn Delamore & Co

Shearn Delamore & Co is a clear market leader for prosecution and contentious matters in Malaysia. In the past year the firm has acted successfully for the McDonald's Corporation against a local restaurant McCurry over its use of the prefix "Mc". The court ruled that McDonald's did have exclusive rights to the prefix and recognized the extended form of passing off.

Shortlist

Henry Goh & Co Sdn Bhd

Shearn Delamore

Skrine

RamRais & Partners



MIDDLE EAST

Winner: Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property

The leading firm throughout the region, with more than 20 offices, AGIP has not rested on its laurels but expanded by opening offices in places such as Baghdad and Ramallah and by establishing a new firm, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Valuation, to provide further IP-related services.

Shortlist

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property

The Rights Lawyers

Rouse & Co International

Saba & Co



MEXICO

Winner: Olivares & Cia

With an impressive list of clients from the US and Europe, Olivares continues to be one of the most effective IP practices in Mexico. In the past year, the firm has successfully acted for McDonald's in stopping other parties using the "Mc" prefix on their products.

Shortlist

Arochi Marroquin & Lindner

Basham Ringe & Correa

Becerril Coca & Becerril

Olivares & CIA

Uhthoff Gomez Vega & Uhthoff



THE NETHERLANDS

Winner: Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer's Netherlands IP practice is a leader in both patent and trade mark contentious work and in the past year has been involved in a number of cases against Boston Scientific over cardiovascular stents: it represents Conor Medsystems and Johnson & Johnson among others. The firm successfully represented Hoffman La Roche in its fight against cross-border injunctions, ruled on by the European Court of Justice in July 2006.

Shortlist

Bird & Bird

Brinkhof

De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Howrey

Nederlandsch Octrooibureau



NORWAY

Winner: Bryn Aarflot AS

The stand-out firm for patent and trade mark prosecution in Norway, Bryn Aarflot AS also handles some IP-related contentious work and has an alliance with law firm Schjødt enabling it to provide an all-round service to clients. The firm has 10 partners and seven associates.

Shortlist

Bryn Aarflot AS

Grette
Onsagers
Thomessen
Zacco

POLAND

Winner: Patpol

With its extensive staff of technical patent and trade mark specialists, as well as legal advisers, Patpol stands out in this important emerging European market.

Shortlist

Patpol
PolSERVICE
Sotysinski Kawecki & Szlezak

RUSSIA

Winner: Baker & McKenzie

Baker & McKenzie continues to dominate the IP market in Russia, particularly in the anti-counterfeiting field. Led by Eugene Arievich, the firm represents the brand owner VF Corporation in its fight against counterfeiters in Russia. The firm also achieved a landmark ruling for Biofarma in a trade mark infringement case and obtained the maximum amount of statutory infringement compensation for the client.

Shortlist

Baker & McKenzie
Euromarkpat
Gorodissky & Partners

SPAIN

Winner: Grau Baylos & Angulo

It is only four years old, but Grau Baylos & Angulo is already shaking up the Spanish IP market. As well as being active in patent litigation, with recent cases covering optical technology and drugs, it handles anti-counterfeiting work for brand-owning clients such as Hugo Boss, adidas, Jimmy Choo and Orange and recently set up an international IP enforcement programme for Barcelona Football Club.

Shortlist

Clifford Chance
Gomez-Acebo & Pombo
Grau Baylos & Angulo
Herrero & Asociados
ZBM Patents

SINGAPORE

Winner: Drew & Napier LLC

Drew & Napier continues to set the standard for IP firms in Singapore and wins praise from rivals and clients alike for its outstanding prosecution services. The firm represented Singapore telecommunications company Starhub in a claim of passing off, unfair competition and copyright over the StarHub logo.

Shortlist

Alban Tay Mahtani & de Silva
Drew & Napier LLC
Ella Cheong Spruson & Ferguson

SWEDEN

Winner: RydinCarlsten

A top-rated firm in Sweden, RydinCarlsten successfully represented Nokia in a landmark dispute that went all the way to the European Court of Justice in December 2006 and is likely to lead to stronger protection for trade mark owners across Europe.

Shortlist

Albihns
Awapatent
Gozzo Advokater
RydinCarlsten
Sandart & Partners

TAIWAN



Winner: Lee & Li

Lee & Li offers a full spectrum of IP services and has responded to its clients' ever-growing needs for IP protection in China by developing new platforms to provide Greater China IP services. In the past year the firm has represented Logitech, Bristol-Myers Squibb and DuPont in patent cases and helped to overturn the IPO's rejection of DuPont's patent application.

Shortlist

Lee & Li
Saint Island International Patent & Law Offices
Tai E International Patent & Law Office

**THAILAND****Winner: Tilleke & Gibbins International Ltd**

Tilleke & Gibbins is one of the largest and most active firms in Thailand, with special expertise in anti-counterfeiting and enforcement work. In the past year, the firm coordinated the first ever criminal enforcement of a design patent with the Thai Department of Special Investigation. More than 1,000 fully assembled motorcycles, valued at over \$1.2 million, were seized on behalf of a Japanese manufacturer. It is also acting for Merck in its battle with the Thai government over its decision to issue a compulsory licence for the AIDS drug efavirenz.

Shortlist

Baker & McKenzie
Domnern Somgiat & Boonma
Tilleke & Gibbins International Ltd

**TURKEY****Winner: Deris**

The IP-specialist team at Deris consists of eight lawyers and 14 agents covering the full range of IP work and the firm has been at the forefront of providing web-based services to its clients worldwide.

Shortlist

Ankara Patent Bureau
Deris
Tellioglu Law

**UK: PATENT/TRADE MARK AGENTS****Winner: Boulton Wade Tennant**

One of the UK's largest firms of patent and trade mark attorneys, Boulton Wade Tennant is rapidly developing a reputation for top-quality IP work in its four offices. It also worked on both the Cinpres Gas (patent) and O2 (trade mark) cases alongside law firm Wragge & Co.

Shortlist

Boulton Wade Tennant
Carpmaels & Ransford
Gill Jennings & Every
Kilburn & Strode
Marks & Clerk

**UK: LAW FIRMS****Winner: Wragge & Co**

In the increasingly competitive market for IP litigation in the UK, Birmingham-based Wragge & Co has carved out a niche. It is representing Interdigital in its fight with Nokia over telecoms patents and acted for O2 in a comparative advertising dispute over moving bubbles. The case has been referred to the ECJ.

Shortlist

Bird & Bird
Bristows
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer



Lovells
 Simmons & Simmons
 Taylor Wessing
 Wragge & Co

UNITED STATES: PATENT PROSECUTION

Winner: Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner

Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner's 250-plus lawyers handle more than 3,000 patent applications a year, making the firm recognized worldwide as an IP leader. Clients include worldwide technology companies such as 3M, Eli Lilly, Hewlett-Packard, Toshiba and Syngenta.

Shortlist

Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner
 Fish & Richardson
 Fitzpatrick Cell Harper & Scinto
 Kenyon & Kenyon
 Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear



UNITED STATES: PATENT CONTENTIOUS

Winner: Fish & Richardson

In 2006, Fish & Richardson became the largest US IP practice, according to MIP's survey of the largest firms. It has offices throughout the US, enabling it to represent clients directly in many jurisdictions and the ITC, and is consistently ranked as the most active firm in patent litigation. The firm represents Microsoft in its challenge against a headline-grabbing \$1.5 billion damages award by a Californian jury.

Shortlist

Finnegan Henderson
 Fish & Richardson
 Irell & Manella
 Jones Day
 Kenyon & Kenyon
 Kirkland & Ellis



UNITED STATES: TRADE MARK PROSECUTION

Winner: Fross Zelnick Lehrman & Zissu

FROSS ZELNICK LEHRMAN & ZISSU, P.C.

New York boutique Fross Zelnick leads the field in trade mark and copyright work, and is the biggest law firm user of the USPTO's electronic filing system. In an innovative project last year, the firm worked on the IP protection of the Red campaign, which sees various retailers selling products to raise money to treat AIDS in Africa.

Shortlist

Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione
 Cowan Leibowitz & Latman
 Finnegan Henderson
 Fish & Richardson
 Fross Zelnick Lehrman & Zissu

UNITED STATES: TRADE MARK/COPYRIGHT CONTENTIOUS

Winner: Debevoise & Plimpton

With a small but highly focused team, Debevoise & Plimpton has garnered a reputation as one of the most effective firms in fighting trade mark and copyright cases. In one continuing dispute, it is representing the Association of American Publishers in a fight against Google's plans to create a virtual digital library.

Shortlist

Cowan Leibowitz & Latman
 Debevoise & Plimpton
 Finnegan Henderson
 Fross Zelnick Lehrman & Zissu
 Kilpatrick Stockton
 Kirkland & Ellis
 Pattishall McAuliffe



CASE OF THE YEAR (UNITED STATES)

Winner: Sidley Austin Winner: Skadden



The *eBay v MercExchange* case was a crucial test for the Supreme Court in 2006, and addressed head-on the power of patent trolls – the big topic of the year. The ramifications of the Court's carefully nuanced decision will continue to be felt for a long time, making it one of the most important patent cases in many years. Sidley Austin and Skadden represented eBay in taking the case to the Court.

VIETNAM

Winner: Pham & Associates



Pham & Associates has a solid reputation as one of Vietnam's leading law firms with an excellent all-round IP practice. The firm is active at every level of IP enforcement and has been conducting a nationwide IP awareness campaign on behalf of Honda since August 2005. The firm has also advised well-known brand owners such as Chanel, Gucci, Cartier, Montblanc and adidas on counterfeiting issues.

Shortlist

- Baker & McKenzie
- Pham & Associates
- Vision & Associates

EUROPE: PATENT FILING

Winner: Zacco

Despite three decades of the European patent system, few patent filing firms in Europe have expanded beyond national borders. Although not the biggest firm in Europe, Zacco is recognized for developing a cross-border approach that spans three jurisdictions and different disciplines, including filing, contentious and valuation work.

Shortlist

- Albihns
- Grunecker Kinkeldey
- Hoffmann Eitle
- Marks & Clerk
- Zacco



EUROPE: TRADE MARK FILING

Winner: Gevers & Partners

Gevers & Partners remains the leader in European Community trade mark and Community design work from its headquarters near Brussels, with 40 attorneys and more than 120 other staff. It has further expanded this year, offering services in France through an alliance with Paris-based Bloch & Partners.

Shortlist

- Field Fisher Waterhouse
- Gevers & partners
- Lovells
- Novagraaf



EUROPE: LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR

Winner: Bird & Bird

Bird & Bird has expanded from its London office to develop market-leading IP practices in several of Europe's most important jurisdictions in recent years. It represents Nokia in a series of cases over telecoms patents and standards in the UK and beyond and Benetton in a trade mark shape dispute before the ECJ.

Shortlist

- Baker & McKenzie
- Bird & Bird
- Howrey
- Lovells
- NautaDutilh



IN-HOUSE TEAM OF THE YEAR

Winner: Google

Hardly any cutting-edge IP issue remains untouched by Google, as its technology and innovative business models continue to push at traditional legal boundaries. Its IP team is therefore at the heart of many of the hottest IP debates, from protecting innovative technology to balancing copyright protection in an age of digital distribution. It also has the unenviable task of preventing one of the world's most famous and familiar brands from becoming generic.

Shortlist
Google
Huawei
Nestlé
Pfizer
Philips
Richemont



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

Winner: Tove Graulund

Tove Graulund trained as a translator before working in IP. She was in charge of trade marks, and later all IP rights, for Arla (formerly MD) Foods but it is in her voluntary work as chair of the trade mark owners' organization MARQUES that she has had such an impact on IP owners. She has seen MARQUES become a much larger, more well-organized and influential body but her real achievements have been her advocacy of concrete, practical benefits for brand owners: notably the promotion of the Madrid Protocol and transparency in the work of OHIM and national offices in Europe.



Shortlist

Francis Gurry (WIPO)
Ron Marchant (The Patent Office)
Judge Pauline Newman (CAFC)
Tove Graulund (MARQUES)

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