

Taking IP To The Next Level

By Fiona Nicolson, President, LES International



What a hectic time it has been since the June issue of Global News with many exciting events taking place, plans being made and LESI Committee Chairs finalising their action points for the coming year.

All in all good progress towards the goals for this year and taking the business of IP 'to the next level'—with our focus on developing our communities, industry committees and communications.

I am also delighted to report that our MoU with the EPO is going well and developing into a great partnership between us.

This was clearly in evidence at the inaugural two-day sold-out licensing training course in Basel in June, where 56 people attended a very professional and wide ranging licensing course with some great presenters. The second two-day licensing seminar will be organised by LES Turkey in September. There will also be an EPO hosted training event after the European Conference in Madrid on the 13th September.

The participants came, not just from Europe, but from China and India. Many thanks to Chris Shaowei for organising the Chinese delegation of 12 attendees, mostly business people from all over China, and to the EPO for bringing along an Indian Government delegation. There seems to be a great deal of interest in commercialisation training for SMEs in India at the moment.

I don't believe that anyone is better placed to provide licensing training across the globe than LES. As LES members we all know that commercialisation is key and that you need to know how to do it well, obtaining IP protection is only the first step. We have so many experienced practitioners from both industry and the IP professions keen to share their knowledge in a practical and professional way. I hope that we can continue to develop these courses in the coming months.

Enormous thanks are due, in particular, to Martin Schneider, Co-Chair of the LESI Education Committee, and to Thomas Bereuter of the EPO Academy. They have led this initiative all of the way and of course a big thank you to all of the course contributors and presenters.

In line with our business focus we are also currently finalising the

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LES Yokohama meeting attendees tour Kamakura, Japan.

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Call For Content

We request contributions from all societies and individuals about important events, changes in the law in your country or region, conferences, annual meetings, board changes, and the like from your society. You can submit articles or announcements to the editor or use the form on the website at the following address: www.lesi.org/les-societies/les-global-news/submission-form.

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Editor: Larry Plonsker, 10580 Northgreen Dr., Wellington, FL 33449 • Email: editor@LESI.org

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Women in Licensing (WIL) group at the LES Annual Conference in Yokohama.

planning and marketing of a joint EPO/LESI Conference for SMEs in Dublin on the 4th and 5th November in conjunction with LES B&I. Please do help us market this event and come along, as registration is open now and of course Dublin is always a great city to visit.

Finally, I want to mention the YMC which is continuing to go from strength to strength as it celebrates its tenth birthday. The YMC is a huge LES success story with many

of the original leaders of the YMC now playing key leadership roles in our LESI Committees. The YMC Committee, under the very able leadership of Vince Bergeron, is working very hard on great regional events for this year—and importantly on converting non-LES attendees into active LES members in their local Societies.

The recent YMC regional meeting, which I attended in Montreal (also a sell-out with 100 attendees), encapsulated everything I think is great about our wonderful Society—great educational content, social events, fantastic organisation and

sponsorship and a friendly atmosphere where the attendees can meet, learn and have fun whilst building long lasting professional and personal relationships.

If you are in any doubt about the benefits of being a member of LES please read our Gold Medal winner and LESI Past-President Pat O'Reilly's insights, which are contained in our new feature on Page 1. ■

Licensing Executives Society Applauds Introduction of the STRONGER Patents Act of 2019

The Licensing Executives Society (U.S.A. and Canada), Inc. (LES) commends Senator Coons, Representative Stivers and other co-sponsors for reintroducing the bipartisan STRONGER Patents Act of 2019 in the Senate and the House of Representatives. We commend these members of Congress for their leadership, and for their collaborative spirit in securing co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle in both houses of Congress.

If enacted, this legislation will strengthen the U.S. patent system, reduce abuse, and ameliorate many of the unintended consequences that have crept into the U.S. patent system since the passage of the American Invents Act (AIA), and as a result of a series of unfortunate court decisions. With the STRONGER Patents Act of 2019, Congress will re-affirm innovation and intellectual property rights as pillars of the American economy, and will regain its proper role in setting prudent IP policy.

The American inventor is the embodiment of the pioneering spirit that made the U.S. economy the envy of the world. Our innovative spirit has been fueled by a patent system conferring a valuable property right on inventors—the right to exclude others from exploiting the inventor's creation. Without that property right, innovation withers, investment declines, and economic activity is diminished. By increasing the strength and durability of U.S. patents, inventors more actively create, the public enjoys these creations, and new industries flourish. LES is committed to working with Congress and the executive branch on initiatives to further improve the U.S. patent system, including industry self-regulation to build consensus and to promote prudent IP practices (LES Standards Initiative, <https://www.lesusacanada.org/page/lesstandards>). Over the past several years, the U.S. patent system has lost its place as the perennial world leader in value, reliability, and durability. (<https://www.theglobalipcenter.com/u-s-chamber-releases-2019-international-ip-index/>). We need to reverse that trend. The STRONGER Patents Act of 2019 is an important step in that direction. ■