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Intellectual Property

A Word About this List

Being a paid observer of the legal industry brings us a lot of enriching moments. But the absolute best part about our job is watching brilliant people facilitate creative ideas so that they blossom into real solutions. Nowhere is this more evident than in the intellectual property arena, in which lawyers draft and defend patents, copyrights and trademarks for medical cures, technological innovations and, of course, great entertainment.

This is the fourth year the Daily Journal has published a Top Intellectual Property Lawyers list. In putting it together, editors read hundreds of nominations from lawyers. We also consult Daily Journal reporters who cover this field and read our coverage of the practice.

To qualify, the lawyer must be based in California but his or

her work can be anywhere. Many of the litigators practice in the Eastern District of Texas but they also have cases in other federal districts and before the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C. Portfolio managers work for companies in every corner of the globe.

The most important criterion for making the list is the impact of the work. How has this work affected an industry or society? Did it create or save jobs? Did it help bring to market a cure? Save a technological innovation?

The result is a lively mix of people doing fascinating work. There are tech gurus, science nerds and glitzy Hollywood folks. Read on. Get to know them.

— The Editors

TOP 75 LEADING IP LITIGATORS



ALEXANDER F. MACKINNON

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Los Angeles

Patent

MacKinnon's practice focuses on complex litigation in intellectual property. His clients range from telecommunications companies to the makers of pharmaceuticals.

This past year he represented Arizona-based Limelight Networks, Inc. in a patent victory against Akamai Technologies Inc. The two companies are rival providers of content delivery networks.

In June of last year, MacKinnon argued successfully before the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on behalf of Limelight, defeating Akamai's three patent claims originally brought in the District of Massachusetts. On one patent, Limelight obtained a judgment as matter of law after trial based on Akamai's failure to establish joint infringement under the Federal Circuit's standard. The other two patents were dismissed before trial. Akamai appealed, and in December the Federal Circuit affirmed the district court's rulings in favor of Limelight.

"Getting a good result for Limelight was particularly gratifying," MacKinnon said. "We've worked for over four years on this litigation, and it has been a complete team effort with our client all along the way."

Other recent matters MacKinnon has been involved in:

- Represented DIRECTV Inc. in a patent infringement matter brought by Northpoint Technology LLC in the Western District of Texas.
- Represented Teva Women's Health Inc. against Watson Pharmaceuticals Inc. in a patent suit in the District of Nevada.
- Represented Limelight defending against a patent suit brought by Level 3 Communications, Inc. in the Eastern District of Virginia.

— Robert Pierce