

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY HOT LIST | A SPECIAL REPORT

This week we recognize 15 law firms that accomplish great things in the realm of intellectual property law. We asked our readers to suggest firms that won major cases during 2014—both in dollars and impact—and received dozens of replies. We also conducted our own extensive research to identify the firms you'll find profiled here. They range from major firms with 1,000 or more lawyers to smaller shops that do IP law exclusively.



JEANNE 'JEANNIE' HEFFERNAN

Kirkland & Ellis

Kirkland & Ellis deployed an animated tutorial during a five-hour hearing to convince a Florida federal judge to knock out two of Atlas IP LLC's three patent infringement claims on summary judgment fewer than three weeks before trial. The firm's motion for reconsideration for Medtronic Inc., now a Medtronic PLC subsidiary, convinced U.S. District Judge Cecilia Altonaga to disqualify Atlas' last claim one week before trial.

Judges often are inclined to let a jury decide when a case is that close to trial, said Kirkland New York partner Jeanne "Jeannie" Heffernan, who first-chaired the case. "There may be a number of points you want to appeal, but you focus on your best argument, your strongest argument," she said.

Atlas sought \$217.6 million on claims

that Medtronic's pacemakers, defibrillators and insulin pumps infringed a wireless-networking patent it had acquired.

Kirkland went all-in at the pre-trial stage because it was clear that Medtronic's products bore no relation to the patent in the case, Heffernan said. "The way [the Kirkland lawyers] handled the litigation in this instance was very professional and very good," said George Summerfield, also counsel for Atlas at Chicago's Stadheim & Grear.

Kirkland played a major role in the precedent-setting U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruling in *Ericsson v. D-Link*, involving claims against a host of technology companies over patents Ericsson Inc. claimed on Wi-Fi technology. The December ruling vacated Ericsson's damages and provided guidance on royalties for patents essential to technical standards.

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr argued for the defendants and Intel Corp. Kirkland worked on Intel Corp.'s brief, and the ruling drew on Kirkland's district court damages arguments, said Kirkland San Francisco partner Adam Alper, who had a key role at both stages.

—SHERI QUALTERS

FIRM FACTS:

- Year founded: 1909 ■ Headquarters: Chicago
- Total attorneys: 1,600 ■ IP partners: 107 ■ IP associates: 119