

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY **HOT LIST** | A SPECIAL REPORT

We recognize 15 law firms that set the bar in intellectual property law in 2015, scoring big wins for clients. They range from major firms with 1,000 or more lawyers to smaller shops with an IP focus. This year's group includes firms that went before the U.S. Supreme Court—and won—in key trademark and patent cases that impacted industries including technology and banking. Others took home big wins in matters involving music, sports and, yes, Spider-Man. These are their superhero stories.



DALE CENDALI

Kirkland & Ellis

When it comes to patent litigation, Kirkland & Ellis plays a full court press.

Firm partners Dale Cendali and Daniel Bond got a copyright case against Nike Inc. over its famous Michael Jordan "Jumpman" logo dismissed on June 15, 2015. Photographer Jacobus Rentmeester claimed that Nike had copied a 1984 photo of Jordan he took for Life magazine to make its famous silhouetted image—a brand worth about \$2 billion.

Local counsel Jon Stride of Tonkon Torp in Portland, Oregon, called Cendali a team player. "She was diligent in her preparation for oral argument and welcomed comments from everyone who was working on the case to help her improve her presentation," he said.

In the firm's intellectual property team, everyone gets a chance to play, said New

York partner Greg Arovas. "There's really substantial trial work done by some of the less senior people in the department," he said.

After a judge in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas awarded more than \$16 million against Cisco Systems Inc., Washington partner John O'Quinn convinced the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit to vacate the award on Dec. 3 on the ground that the damages didn't account for nonpatentable industry standards. Opposing counsel Michael Ng of Kobre & Kim, who represented an arm of the Australian government, called O'Quinn "a superb appellate advocate."

On March 10, 2015, partners Steve Cherny and Amanda Hollis got a rare preliminary injunction order in Delaware for their client, a unit of C.R. Bard Inc., to block sales of a competing blood clotting powder made by CryoLife Inc. And for client Samsung Electronics Co., the firm scored two jury verdicts against Cascades Computer Innovation LLC and decisions by the U.S. International Trade Commission that paved the way for a settlement this year with Nvidia Corp.

—AMANDA BRONSTAD

FIRM FACTS:

- **Year founded:** 1909 ■ **Headquarters:** Chicago
- **Total attorneys:** 1,700 ■ **IP partners:** 109 ■ **IP associates:** 113