

Managing Intellectual Property

The Global IP Resource

50 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN IP 2019: INDUSTRY LEADERS

04 December 2019

Our list includes 15 industry leaders, the details of which you can find below along with the full list of names that make up the Top 50

Erich Andersen, chief IP counsel, Microsoft



Erich Andersen is approaching his 25th year at Microsoft having been with the company since 1995. He assumed responsibility for IP in 2014. It's the second year in a row Andersen has featured on this list but his inclusion this year is no less deserving than last. We picked him in 2018 after Microsoft joined the Open Invention Network (OIN) and the LOT Network, two initiatives focused on open source and combating the threat of non-practising entities (NPEs). In 2019, Andersen's work in this field continued. In March, Microsoft announced it was donating 500 patents to the LOT Network and in July his team took another step towards increasing cross-industry collaboration by releasing templates on data-sharing agreements to make the process less burdensome. In October, Microsoft announced that it was partnering with IBM, the Linux Foundation and the OIN to further protect open source software from NPEs. The group will support the Open Source Zone, run by Unified Patents, an organisation which provides legal services to deter unsubstantiated or invalid patent assertions.

Andrea Brewster, lead executive officer, IP

Inclusive

Andrea Brewster is a prominent leader in the diversity and inclusion movement in the IP profession, both in the UK and globally. Businesses and law firms are gradually making progress as more diverse teams bring benefits such as being more creative. However, a lack of diversity continues to persist in the IP profession. IP Inclusive is an organisation that promotes equality, diversity and inclusion in IP, offering a number of programmes to provide support and networking opportunities for female, disabled, early-stage career and ethnic minority professionals. Additionally, IP Inclusive regularly organises events, such as career talks, annual conferences and webinars, to provide continuous learning and networking opportunities for those interested. To promote diversity and inclusion in the community, IP Inclusive has a charter, now with 141 signatories, that individuals and organisations can sign to support and promote the cause. As a patent attorney, Brewster was a partner and co-founder at Greaves Brewster until her retirement in 2015. A former president of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys, she is a member of the institute's governing council and serves on several of its committees. She received an Order of the British Empire in 2017 for her services to IP.



Female QC trailblazers: Lindsay Lane and Charlotte May



A team made up entirely of female QCs from 8 New Square led Apple to victory in a patent case against Conversant at the England and Wales High Court in November. Though it may be 2019, this is the first time that a patent case has been handled exclusively by female QCs. Lindsay Lane (pictured left), who took silk in 2019, has expertise in areas including patents, trademarks, copyright and designs. With a background in biochemistry, Charlotte May (pictured right) specialises in IP and media and entertainment. Despite this piece of good news, the IP sphere still faces gender inequality challenges. Patents is an area in which

women are consistently underrepresented; a 2017 WIPO report averred that global gender equality in the field of invention remains a "distant prospect". Low female participation in STEM-related subjects and a dearth of women at senior levels of the law are issues that need to be tackled. But as Noreen Krall, Apple's chief litigation counsel, commented on LinkedIn: "Moving the needle one case at a time!"

Scott Frank, CEO, AT&T Intellectual Property

[Full interview](#)

Scott Frank has been with AT&T since 1998 and has been responsible for the identification, licensing and sale of all company-wide IP – among other things – at the telecoms firm since 2006. The company increased its activity in the secondary patent market this year, with Lyft, Uber and Facebook among the companies that have lined up to purchase assets from its extensive portfolio. It has also spearheaded several initiatives as part of the ORAN Alliance – which was set up by several network carriers to develop open source innovations in the radio access network architecture needed for 5G. As president of the Georgia Intellectual Property Alliance (GIPA), Frank has also been an integral figure in promoting IP education across the US State of Georgia, including at universities, schools and with start-ups and SMEs. He has also been working to set up a US and global IP alliance modelled on the GIPA as part of the Georgia-based initiative. In an interview with Managing IP this year, Frank said his position at AT&T has been very helpful in the GIPA’s efforts to set up these new national and international organisations. “I manage GIPA in my spare time, and my job as CEO of AT&T Intellectual Property has led me to meet leaders around the country and the world, such as at the US-based Intellectual Property Owners Association,” he said. “I know the leaders of most of these organisations, and while GIPA is perfecting its model, I’m speaking with them so that they may start their own chapters of the US IP Alliance.”



Minoru Fujiki, CEO, IP Bridge



Full interview

Minoru Fujiki leads Japanese patent fund IP Bridge. The organisation was founded in 2013 by the Japanese quasi-sovereign fund INCJ to provide services to companies interested in IP monetisation and commercialisation, plus those seeking IP defence and finance. One of the motivations for the fund’s establishment was to make sure that patents owned by Japanese companies do not get sold at undervalued prices to foreign buyers. An important part of IP Bridge’s business model is to buy patents from Japanese companies as well as international organisations and license them globally. IP Bridge has acquired patents from businesses such as Panasonic, NEC, Fujitsu and Hitachi. Its portfolio focuses on wireless, mobile, network, semiconductor, display and video-coding patents. The fund participates in several patent pools. IP Bridge now has portfolios across 40 countries with the majority from Japan, the US, China and major countries in Europe, and holds more than 3,500 patents, including some pending applications. Before joining IP Bridge in 2015, Fujiki was the head of the

licensing group for a telecommunications business within NEC Corporation in Japan. Managing IP’s interview with Fujiki can be found [here](#).

Galit Gonen, head of IP, Novartis

Full interview

With a new CEO reforming the company’s culture and fresh projects in cell and gene therapies, Novartis has changed a lot recently. Galit Gonen, who moved from Teva in 2017 to become head of IP, has been spearheading that change in the business’s IP department. Managing IP [revealed in an interview](#) published in November that Gonen has been leading the charge on new protection strategies for cell and gene therapies, IP system reform to help incentivise new drug development, and greater collaboration with policy stakeholders to ensure access to medicine. She is a firm believer in using technology – not only to help discover new medicines, but to help patent attorneys in their day-to-day jobs – and communicating business-critical IP information to company leaders. Having previously worked for Teva, a company that is more involved in the generics field, she says it is important that the right balance is struck between the needs of innovators and generics in the pharmaceutical ecosystem. “Novartis has created a rich pipeline in its efforts to develop game-changing medicines and digital technologies,” she says. “It is all very exciting to transform and develop the processes for how medicines are discovered and commercialised.”



Clemens Heusch, head, European litigation, Nokia



Automotive businesses are keeping their eyes fixed on a series of disputes that erupted this year between Nokia and Daimler at the German courts and the European Commission; the outcomes will begin to benchmark FRAND rates for car connectivity and set out where a standard essential patent should be licensed in the vehicle supply chain. In the Finnish telecoms company’s infringement proceedings against the German car maker, European litigation head Clemens Heusch spearheaded what has become known as an ‘anti-anti-suit injunction’ when he filed a stay of proceedings in the Munich Regional Court against the Northern District of California’s anti-suit injunction order. The court granted that request, which is now on appeal at the Munich Court of Appeals. Nokia had filed 10 infringement actions against Daimler in the Mannheim, Munich and Dusseldorf regional courts, and Daimler went to the California court to seek an anti-suit injunction against Nokia, claiming that any licensing fees should be paid to suppliers. “We are a Finnish company suing a German company so we believe the case should be heard in Germany, not California,” says Heusch. “This is a nice interim success, but we are not at the end yet. So far Daimler has not taken a

licence, though our door remains open for constructive discussions to reach an agreement.” Recently Nokia renamed its

litigation department to ‘dispute resolution’ to show that litigation is not the only way the telecoms company looks to solve commercial disputes. “These are exciting times when a lot is developing and it’s fascinating to be part of this,” says Heusch about his career at Nokia. “Our aim is to find solutions to disputes - there are often ways to do this other than through litigation.”

Laurie Hill, vice president, IP, Genentech

Laurie Hill makes it onto this year’s list because of her work lobbying for eligibility reform in the US IP system. Speaking at the US Senate’s State of Patent Eligibility in America hearing in June, Hill emphasised the importance of patents for biotech companies such as hers, and advocated for a common-sense eligibility test. She said at the hearing. “Present uncertainty surrounding Section 101 threatens to disrupt development of a wide range of important medicines, diagnostics, treatments, and other innovations that benefit society.” Part of the reason she has been so vocal on this subject is Genentech’s commitment to personalised medicines, which are difficult to get patents for under the current eligibility framework. “We’re heading in a very different direction with personalised healthcare, and in many ways the patent system is not fit for purpose,” she tells Managing IP. Hill has been in her position at Genentech since 2017, and, according to the company website, chose to pursue a PhD in cancer immunology after her aunt was diagnosed with cancer.



Dharmesh Mehta, director, marketplace business, Amazon



Amazon has been doing a lot this year to dispel the notion that it does not want to spend much time dealing with other businesses’ counterfeit products on its platform. Under marketplace business director Dharmesh Mehta, the e-commerce company this year launched Project Zero – which uses machine learning to detect and remove counterfeits from its platform – and IP Accelerator, which helps brands secure trademarks by connecting them to a network of attorneys that can provide registration services at competitive rates. The company also set up a patent enforcement pilot project this year that is being tested by a few different businesses, but that is still under development. “Our mission is to ensure an amazing shopping experience,” Mehta tells Managing IP. “Part of that, and it is critical to the success of our store, is working to gain and maintain customer trust in the authenticity and safety of the products sold in our store. That has always been super important for us. We have invested in IP enforcement for many years and our aim has always been to find ways to enforce IP at scale and proactively so that counterfeit listings never show up in our store, much less end up being bought by someone.” He adds that this mission represents a big challenge for

Amazon. There are a lot of bad actors out there, and staying ahead of them requires constant innovation from a technological perspective, he says. But equally, adds Mehta, Amazon must make sure that its anti-counterfeit solutions do not unfairly restrict the sale of similar products or those that have taken inspiration – but are not infringing on – someone’s IP. “The trick is how to get counterfeits off the market without preventing legitimate sellers from entering our marketplace,” he says.

Bill Merritt, CEO, InterDigital

Full interview

Bill Merritt is a champion of using arbitration to settle FRAND disputes. In an interview earlier this year, the InterDigital CEO told Managing IP’s Patent Strategy that FRAND wrangles are business in nature and that arbitration provides a one-stop-shop with neutrality and expertise. “It is hard to imagine a better way of coming to a FRAND deal,” he said at the time. It may seem ironic, therefore, that in August InterDigital launched litigation against Chinese tech company Lenovo. However, Merritt told us that it came after a decade of attempted negotiations, in part because the patents in question had changed hands a number of times, and was the company’s first such case in six years. In the interview, Merritt expanded on why he doesn’t believe courts are best-placed to settle FRAND wars: “I give the courts credit because they are being asked to resolve these issues and many, like the UK courts, have done a good job. But they are really not able, at the end of the day, to create flexible constructs because they are bound by damages law, and that inability spells trouble for how you then implement newly developed rules.” While litigation may be unavoidable at times, Merritt’s pro-arbitration stance sets a good example in an industry filled with IP tension.



Fiona Nicolson, president, LESI

When she was elected president of the Licensing Executives Society International (LESI) in May 2019, Scottish lawyer Fiona Nicolson became its first female president outside of Asia. Not bad – or perhaps not great, depending how you look at it – given that LESI was founded in 1973 and has had just three females in the role. Nicolson, who will be in the position until May 2020, previously said one of her aims is to encourage more women to become involved with licensing and commercialisation. Although women represent more than 50% of members in some local LESI societies, the average proportion of women members globally is just over a third. The partner at Bristows, based in London, heads a non-profit organisation that has more than 9,000 members in 90 countries. One of LESI’s main goals is to set high professional standards for licensing executives globally. In an update on the organisation’s work in September, Nicolson



wrote that there had been “good progress towards the goals for this year and taking the business of IP ‘to the next level’”. Having met Nicolson earlier this year, we can confirm that the twin commitments of partner and president are set to keep her busy right until the end of her tenure.

Luis Romero, director general, ETSI

An organisation that has made strides in improving cooperation and use of open source data is the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). Director general Luis Romero has been at the forefront of these global efforts. In May the organisation signed a memorandum of understanding with the Cellular Operators Association of India to



foster closer co-operation on telecom standardisation and in October partnered with two other European standards organisations (CEN and CENELEC) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to increase understanding of the respective US and European standardisation systems. “Bringing together standards bodies from different parts of the world is in ETSI's DNA; enhancing cooperation with ANSI further enables our members to succeed in the development of technologies for the future network transformation at a global level,” Romero said in a press statement announcing the collaboration. As a mark of his success Romero was elected as director general again earlier this year and began another five-year term. By the end of this period he will have completed 13 years at the helm of the organisation.

Donald Rosenberg, general counsel, Qualcomm



A two-year legal drama over patent royalty rates ended in April when Apple and Qualcomm arrived at a last-minute settlement. The two companies agreed to dismiss all worldwide litigation and signed a six-year agreement for Apple to pay an undisclosed amount to license Qualcomm’s chips. Donald Rosenberg, executive vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of Qualcomm, is responsible for overseeing the company’s global legal affairs including litigation, IP and corporate matters. The case began when Apple accused Qualcomm of abusing its market dominance by asking for exorbitant royalty rates for the essential patents to the chips needed to make smartphones. Some speculated that the companies settled the dispute because Intel announced on the day of the trial that it would stop developing the 5G chips Apple had planned to use for its next generation phone; without Intel’s chips Apple would be more dependent on Qualcomm’s technology. The settlement is seen as a victory for Qualcomm, which bases its business model on chip-making and patent licensing. The day after the settlement was announced, Qualcomm’s shares rose 24%, the biggest single-day rise in almost two decades.

Jesus Vazquez, general counsel, United Cannabis Corporation

Jesus Vazquez has been making waves in the US as vice president and general counsel at United Cannabis Corporation (UCANN). It is only Vazquez’s first full year at the organisation and already UCANN is involved in a first-of-its-kind lawsuit against a rival, Pure Hemp Collective. UCANN sued Pure Hemp for patent infringement of a formulation of highly concentrated liquid cannabinoids. Away from sensationalist headlines that the dispute has attracted, such as ‘Patenting Pot’, observers believe the case, although months – and possibly years – away from a final determination, will be a key test in what is likely to become a significant IP battleground. UCANN, which Vazquez joined in May last year, is a biotechnology company dedicated to the development of plant-based products to target conditions such as arthritis, cancers, and Crohn's disease. Pure Hemp is a privately-held company that manufactures and retails cannabis-based wellness products. One area where the case may run into trouble is in establishing prior art – given the long history of cannabis-based experimentations, including for medical use.



Scott Witonsky, VP, IP and licensing, WiTricity Corporation

Scott Witonsky acts as vice president of IP and licensing at WiTricity Corporation, a company dedicated to wireless charging systems for electric vehicles. Under Witonsky’s tenure, WiTricity purchased Qualcomm’s wireless charging business, which included 1,500 patents and applications. The electrification of cars has been a hot topic in recent years. For example, Volvo has announced plans for half of its sales to come from fully electric cars by 2025, and Mercedes-Benz wants 50% of its sales to originate from electric (both fully and hybrid) models by 2030. The Qualcomm patent acquisition consolidates WiTricity’s presence in the wireless charging systems space and further increases the company’s presence in the industry. During Witonsky’s tenure, the company has seen some notable licensing deals including with Mahle in Germany and Anjie Wireless in China. Witonsky has been at WiTricity since 2014, and prior to joining the company he worked as senior IP counsel at Nuance Communications and patent counsel at Proskauer Rose.



THE FULL TOP 50 LIST

Industry leaders

NAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION
Erich Andersen	Chief IP counsel	Microsoft
Andrea Brewster	Lead executive officer	IP Inclusive
Female QC trailblazers: Lindsay Lane and Charlotte May	QCs	8 New Square
Scott Frank	CEO	AT&T Intellectual Property
Minoru Fujiki	CEO	IP Bridge
Galit Gonen	Head of IP	Novartis
Clemens Heusch	Head, European litigation	Nokia
Laurie Hill	Vice president, IP	Genentech
Dharmesh Mehta	Director, marketplace business	Amazon
Bill Merritt	CEO	InterDigital
Fiona Nicolson	President	LESI
Luis Romero	Director general	ETSI
Donald Rosenberg	General counsel	Qualcomm
Jesus Vazquez	General counsel	United Cannabis Corporation
Scott Witonsky	VP, IP and licensing	WiTricity Corporation

IP authorities

NAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION
Johanne Bélisle	CEO	CIPO
Mary Boney Denison	Commissioner for trademarks	USPTO
Elizabeth Carroll	Chief legal counsel	IP Australia
Fernando dos Santos	Director general	ARIPO
Charles Gore	Executive director	Medicines Patent Pool
Andrei Iancu	Director	USPTO
Daren Tang	CEO	IPOS
Cláudio Vilar Furtado	President	INPI

Notable individuals

NAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION
Ryan Abbott	Professor	University of Surrey
Frederick Allen	Videographer	Nautilus Productions
Banksy	Street artist	N/A
The late Shamnad Basheer	Founder	SpicyIP
James Douglas Connor	European patent applicant	N/A
Jennifer Doudna	Professor	UC Berkeley

Grumpy Cat	Internet celebrity	N/A
Anthony Levandowski	Former employee	Google and Uber
James Love	Director	Knowledge Ecology International
Gene Quinn	Founder	IPWatchdog
Ian Shanks	Scientist	Formerly of Unilever

Public officials

NAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION
Chris Coons	Senator	US Congress
Luis de Grandes Pascual	Former MEP	European Parliament
Bruce Hoffman	Director, Bureau of Competition	USFTC
Icelandic authorities	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Iceland
Xi Jinping	President	China
Christina Lambrecht	Minister of justice	Germany
Gong Peihua	Deputy chief prosecutor	Shanghai People’s Procuratorate
Steven Shapiro	IP unit chief	FBI
Margrethe Vestager	Commissioner for competition	European Commission

Judges

NAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION
Alan Albright	District judge	US Western District of Texas
Richard Arnold	Lord justice	England and Wales Court of Appeal
Shripathi Ravindra Bhat	Judge	Supreme Court of India
The late Henry Carr	Justice	England and Wales High Court
Luo Dongchuan	Chief judge, IP Court	China Supreme People’s Court
Peter Huber	Justice	German Federal Constitutional Court
Marc Jaeger	Former president	EU General Court

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