

# 2021 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPARTMENT BEST PRACTICES

*A Study of IP Law Department Costs, Staffing, Trends, Filing Strategies and Best Practices*

The Intellectual Property (IP) Law Department is central to a corporate innovation protection program. Protecting innovation is paramount to companies' sustainable growth plans and competitiveness, but there is an expectation that patent operational performance be efficient, productive, and effective to reduce risk and contain costs. It can serve as the glue within the organization to capture, protect, manage, and monetize intellectual property.

The 2021 IP Law Department Study confirms that while the legal team is mostly managed as a cost center and is budget driven, it plays a key role in identifying protectable inventions and enabling business growth. It is evident from this study that many IP departments are under constant pressure to operate at the lowest cost possible while growing the intellectual property portfolio value.

In this comprehensive study, innovation-driven companies shared operational costs, staffing and attorney responsibilities, patent filing strategies, improvement strategies, and performance metrics.

This groundbreaking report will assist you in evaluating your department costs and staffing levels. For example, this report details specific attorney and support staff sizes and performance metrics, attorney activities, cycle time and workload, patent filing strategies (including foreign filing decisions), and many other factors that impact a patent operation (see Table of Contents below).

This report includes a thorough executive summary that provides key highlights and observations. The full report provides descriptive charts and more than 130 pages of detailed statistics including **popular IP Performance Indicators (Metrics & Ratios)**.

This Intellectual Property Law Department report preview includes more information about the study's background, methodology and detailed outline of the statistics section.

## Benchmark Report at a Glance

### Number of Companies

44 Participants

### Industries

17

### Information Type

Graphics

Metrics

Ratios

Key Findings

### Report Length

130 pages

60 Graphs

# Report Structure and Organization

## Table of Contents - Summary

1. Organization IP Profile and Culture
2. Invention Capture and Patent Protection Metrics and Activities
3. Patenting Performance and Protection Approaches
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### Who Can Benefit From This Report

- Chief Intellectual Property/Patent Officers
- Chief Legal Officers/General Counsel
- Chief Financial Officers
- Chief Technology Officers
- Intellectual Property Directors

## IP Law Department Operation Considerations

Learn about performance impact-based IP law department practices and operational structure.

- Do licensing strategies influence patent filing and maintenance decisions?
- Who is the most senior person or people outside the legal department intimately familiar with the IP law department annual plan? Does it impact the IP legal department budget?
- Does an IP Asset Management group separate from the IP Law Department improve the patent attorney efficiency and reduce overall costs?
- Do patent attorneys located in your R&D labs and/or Development Centers improve the ROI on R&D?
- What is the right balance of in-house and outside counsel support to maximize the patent operation budget?
- What are the prevalent factors considered for pruning and annuity management decisions?
- What are the predominant foreign filing strategies and locations in key industries?
- What are the key patent department productivity and performance measures?

## ***More on ipPerformance Group***

ipPerformance Group, Inc. ([www.ipperform.com](http://www.ipperform.com)) is the leading intellectual property advisory company. We enable our clients to apply best practices and measure IP performance by drawing upon our knowledge of more than 550 intellectual property management benchmarks, all from Global 1000 companies. Armed with this knowledge, you will be able to solve complex intellectual property business problems and measurably enhance your ability to build value, manage risk, and improve performance in an intellectual property-driven enterprise.

## ***Custom analyses***

When benchmarking peer and internal information, it is essential to understand the context of the data, as much as the factors that can influence a divergence in benchmark results. In addition to benchmarking activities for evaluating best practices, at **ipPerformance**, we have also developed a comprehensive capability maturity model that will allow for a true assessment of your program. For more information, please call Rob Williamson on 630-216-9673 ([rwilliamson@ipperform.com](mailto:rwilliamson@ipperform.com)).

## **Other Benchmark Reports and Best Practice Guides Available:**

- Inventor Rewards and Recognition Programs
- International Inventor Remuneration Practices
- Invention Harvesting, Review and IP Decisions
- Patent Intelligence (Research and Analytics—People, Processes, Tools and Services)
- IP Strategy Development Practices and Performance Measures, Driving Business Results
- IP Law Department Budgeting and Cost Management
- Trade Secret Management and Protection Practices
- Intellectual Property Legal Process Outsourcing
- Patent Preparation and Prosecution Quality Practices
- Patent Translation Practices
- Foreign Prosecution Practice
- Intellectual Asset Management Software Satisfaction
- Intellectual Property Training Best Practices
- Intellectual Property Management Guidelines—Standard Operating Procedures
- Best Practices Videos and Templates
- Intellectual Property Technology Valuation Guidelines
- Developing an Inventor Rewards and Recognition Program (with templates)
- IP Training Courses
- IP Knowledge Diagnostic
- IP Culture Diagnostic
- IAM Program Proficiency

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