

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT – Outside Counsel Costs, Cycle-time, and Quality Management BEST PRACTICES

A Study of IP Law Firm Costs, Cycle-times, Oversight Methods, Trends, Strategies, and Best Practices

Law firm expenses represent the largest portion of the IP Law Department budget in most companies. With continued economic pressures, IP Law Department leadership seek to find new ways to manage increasing costs and operate more efficiently while improving the effectiveness of their patent assets.

The 2015 Intellectual Property Law Department: Outside Counsel Costs, Cycle-time, and Quality Management study confirms that law firm management varies widely across companies, but there are best practices for managing law firm relationships to **achieve high quality results, timely responses, and lower costs.**

In this comprehensive study, innovation-driven companies shared detailed law firm activity costs, management and assessment practices, selection methods, fee management practices, international patent preparation and prosecution approaches, and methods for improving attorney responsibilities, patent filing strategies, and performance metrics.

This groundbreaking report will assist you in evaluating your law firm costs, cycle times, and management methods.

This report includes a thorough executive summary that provides key highlights and observations. The full report provides descriptive charts and more than 75 pages of detailed statistics.

This Intellectual Property Law Department Patent Operation 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
17 Participants

Information Type
Graphics
Metrics
Ratios
Key Findings
Analysis based on Patent
Operation Budget and
Patenting Volume
Number of Law Firms

Report Length
Two Volumes
> 75 pages

Report Structure and Organization

Table of Contents - Summary

Participant Background
IP Law Firm Selection
IP Law Firm Usage/Trends
IP Law Firm Usage Percentages
Time and Efficiencies - Priority Non-Provisional Patents
IP Law Firm Costs Averages
Outside Counsel Guidelines
Provisional Patent Filing
Alternative/Fixed Fee Arrangements
Hourly Rates
Methods for Improving Cost and Performance
Managing Costs
IP Department Operational Budget
International Patent Preparation and Prosecution
Law Firm Changes (Add or Eliminate)
Patent/Technology Enforcement & Disputes Activities

Law Firm Relationship Management Considerations

Learn about performance impact-based patent practices and operational structure.

Does the use of outside counsel guidelines impact cost or time?

Do companies that reduce their number of law firms gain cost or quality advantages?

What are key topics in Law Firm Guidelines?

Are there cost or quality advantages when law firms attend business or R&D meetings?

Is there a value to frequent formal law firm “review” sessions?

What are the advantages of your law firm meeting directly with inventors?

Should your law firm conduct examiner interviews more frequently?

Who Can Benefit From This Report

- Chief Intellectual Property/Patent Officer
- Chief Legal Officer/General Counsel
- Chief Financial Officer
- Chief Technology Officer
- Intellectual Property Director

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