

# 2016 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPARTMENT BEST PRACTICES

*A Study of Patent Operation Costs, Staffing, Trends, Filing Strategies and Best Practices*

The Intellectual Property Law Departments Patent Operation 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 2016 IP Law Department Patent Operation 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.

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 74 pages of detailed statistics including **popular IP Performance Indicators (Metrics & Ratios)**.

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

### Sample Participants

Veritas Technologies  
Symantec Corporation  
DSM  
Rich Products  
Medtronic  
Kimberly-Clark  
Harris Corporation

### Number of Companies

33 Participants

### Information Type

Graphics  
Metrics  
Ratios  
Key Findings

### Report Length

Two Volumes  
74 pages

# 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
4. Prosecution Management
5. Patent/Technology Enforcement & Disputes Activities
6. Area Filing Strategies & Locations
7. Provisional Patent Application Filing
8. Patent Portfolio Management and Global Protection
9. IP Law Department Staffing – Types and Number in Key Roles
10. Worldwide IP Law Department Staffing and Locations – Decentralized
11. IP Law Department and Attorney Performance Metrics and Improvement Opportunities
12. IP Law Department Operational Budgets and Cost Management Practices
13. In-House Patent Attorney/Agent Workload and Efficiencies (Cycle-Time)
14. In-House Patent Attorney Responsibilities
15. In-House Patent Attorney/Agent Patent Preparation and Prosecution Support Efficiencies (Cycle Time)
16. R&D Metrics & Development Projects
17. Business & Organizational Data
18. Appendix: Noteworthy Elaborations

### Patent Operation Considerations

Learn about performance impact based patent practices and operational structure.

- Does your IP law department have a written charter (purpose, scope of responsibilities and expectations)?
- Does your company's patent monetization/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 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?

### 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

## ***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
- Strategic Intellectual Property Management—Comprehensive View of End-to-End Processes—Evaluation of Program Proficiencies
- Patent Intelligence (Research and Analytics—People, Processes, Tools and Services)
- IP Strategy Development Practices and Performance Measures, Driving Business Results
- IP/Patent Department Operations & Metrics (Staffing Roles & Responsibilities, Internal & Outside Counsel Costs)
- Intellectual Asset Management Software Satisfaction
- Intellectual Property Training Best Practices
- Intellectual Property Management Guidelines—Standard Operating Procedures
- Best Practice Templates
- Intellectual Property Technology Valuation Guidelines
- IP Training Courses

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