

MEET OUR 2022 SPEAKERS



WINTER ROUNDTABLE

25 FEBRUARY 2022
MORNING CET

Gwilym Roberts

Chairman, UK and European Patent
Attorney at Kilburn & Strode (UK)



Gwilym Roberts advises clients on all aspects of the patent process including IP audit and capture, IP filing strategies and patent portfolio management techniques. He acts for a range of clients including individuals, SMEs, Universities, and spin outs through to multi-nationals and handles a broad and diverse range of cases before the UK Patent Office, EPO and WIPO.

As well as being a Visiting Professor at Queen Mary University of London, Gwilym is the co-host of the podcast Two IPs In A Pod alongside CIPA's Lee Davies. They chat with entrepreneurs, creatives, patent attorneys and the occasional judge about how patents, trademarks, designs and copyright can improve our lives and solve problems for humanity. You can listen to them on most podcast platforms.

He has also recently spoken on a podcast by the European Patent Office called Talk Innovation.



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Christian W Appelt

Partner of Boehmert & Boehmert,
German and European Patent Attorney (DE)



Christian W Appelt is partner of BOEHMERT & BOEHMERT and is active in the IP area since 1995. Besides his professional career in Europe, he worked in Japan for two years for a patent law firm in Osaka, in the patent department of Ebara Corporation, and in the IP department of Sony Corporation in Tokyo.

He is focused on counseling of SMEs in Germany and Europe in all aspects of Intellectual Property, especially Patents and Utility Models, and on representing and advising large, internationally active companies, especially from Japan, China, and the US. Christian W. Appelt especially concentrates on representing and advising his clients in opposition and nullity proceedings, as well as in patent litigation proceedings.

Christian W Appelt regularly teaches intellectual property law, especially at the Tokyo University of Science (TUS) in Tokyo and at Osaka University (Intellectual Property Center, IPPrism). Since 2004, he is an assistant professor at the University of Applied Sciences, Kiel, Germany, and since 2015 he is speaking on case law of the Boards of Appeal of the EPO at the "Düsseldorfer Patentrechtstage".

He is a member of the Board of the German chapter of the Licensing Executives Society (LES) since 2010, acting as President from 2018 to 2020.



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Jörg Thomaier

CEO at the Bayer Intellectual Property
GmbH and Head of IP Bayer Group,
European Patent Attorney (DE)



Jörg Thomaier was born in Heidelberg, where he also started his educational career, then moving to studying at the Universities of Freiburg (Germany), Utrecht (Netherlands) as well as the ETH Zürich (Switzerland), finally receiving his PhD in the field of phosphorus-organometallic Chemistry.

He joined Bayer straight thereafter to become a Patent Attorney. After being trained at Bayer and through certain other trainings at different places, he passed the European Qualifying Examination at the European Patent Office in 2001 to become a European Patent Attorney.

After a journey through Bayer's diverse Business Areas, as a Patent Attorney as well as heading some of the patent departments, **Jörg Thomaier** reached the top of Bayer's Global IP Team.



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Heli Pihlajamaa

Director Patent Law,
European Patent Office (EPO)



Heli Pihlajamaa is responsible for supporting the EPO policy by developing, strengthening and promoting the EPC, including proposals for legal changes, compliance of operations with patent law-related norms and case law, and advises EPO higher management on policy issues and legal amendments.

In 2020, **Heli Pihlajamaa** was heavily involved in the changes implemented in the patent grant procedure and other implications of the COVID-19 for the European patent system.



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Marko Schauwecker

Legal Expert at the European
Patent Office (EPO)



Marko Schauwecker is a legal expert at the European Patent Office for questions related to patentability of biotechnology inventions.



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Jérémie Fénichel

Head of the Patent Department
at the French Industrial Property
Office (INPI) (FR)



After discovering IP during his engineering school end-of-study internship, **Jérémie Fénichel** joined INPI in 2003 as a patent examiner.

In 2010, he took responsibility, within the Patent Department, of the new technologies service with the creation of examination guidelines relating to computer-implemented innovations in order to contribute to the harmonization of practices on the patentability of software.

In 2013, in parallel with his functions, he was appointed general delegate of the “Observatoire de l’immatériel”, an association bringing together institutions, companies and counsels so that companies can appropriate the value of their intangible capital.

Since 2016, he has been in charge of the Patents Department at the French Industrial Property Office, INPI. After having set up a service of engineers specializing in patent mapping, he focused on the modernization of French patent legislation and work particularly to the creation of an opposition procedure on French patents and the strengthening of the examination with the taking into account of the requirement of inventive step.



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Phil Thorpe

Deputy Director, UK Intellectual
Property Office (UK)



Phil Thorpe is a Deputy Director at the UK Intellectual Property Office with responsibility for patent practice. He is also an inter-partes hearing officer and has responsibility for the IPO's Opinion Service. During his more than 30 years with the IPO, Phil has been heavily involved in IP policy including representing the UK in the TRIPS Council.

He has been seconded to the EU Commission where among other things he worked on the Community Patent Regulation and was also seconded to the secretariat for the UK Commission on Intellectual Property Rights.



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Inês Cristóvão Silva

Head of the Patent and Utility Model
Department at the Portuguese IPO (INPI)



Inês Cristóvão Silva is, since 2013, Head of the Patent and Utility Model Department of the Portuguese National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI-PT).

She is a biologist holding a Ph.D. in genetics. After her Academic career she joined INPI-PT in 2009 as a patent examiner in the field of biotechnology.

Inês participates as a Portuguese Delegate on EPO, WIPO and EU meetings on international cooperation and bilateral meetings with member states as a Patent and SPC expert. She is also a regular speaker and trainer at IP seminars and invited lecturer at Universities on the field of Industrial Property.

In addition, she holds an Executive Masters degree on Management since 2012 and a Law degree since 2018.



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