

50 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN IP 2019: IP AUTHORITIES

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Our list includes 8 IP authorities, the details of which you can find below along with the full list of names that make up the Top 50

Johanne Bélisle, CEO, CIPO



As commissioner of patents, registrar of trademarks and CEO of CIPO, Johanne Bélisle has overseen several changes that came into effect in 2019. For example, trademark applicants no longer need to declare use when they file. This has the potential to make filing less burdensome for applicants, though some worry that it could embolden “trademark trolls” or those seeking to obtain rights to a mark that they have no intention of using. Canada is also recognising non-traditional marks like colours, scents, holograms and taste. Additionally, the new rules allow letters of protest during examination. Changes on the patent side also came through this year. For example, Canada implemented 24/7/365 filing, allowing an applicant to secure a filing date even when the patent office is closed. The deadline to request examination has been shortened from five years to four from the filing date. During Bélisle’s tenure, the country has taken steps to

better connect to the international IP community. In 2019, Canada became a member of the Madrid System, the Nice Agreement and the Singapore Treaty. In 2018, the country joined the Hague System.

Mary Boney Denison, commissioner for trademarks, USPTO

[Full interview](#)

Mary Boney Denison is retiring as USPTO commissioner for trademarks at the end of 2019, and her retirement leaves many in the trademark world sad to see her go. Denison has served in the role since 2015 and been at the USPTO since 2008. In a [2016 interview with Managing IP](#), she revealed that she was pushed to go to law school by her mother who wanted to ensure that her daughter would be able to support herself. Starting off in a small firm, she initially obtained a position as a litigation associate. But her firm’s clients included brands who needed US trademark work done, so she gained trademark experience early on. The trademark office has made a number of significant reforms under Denison’s tenure. In [interviews with Managing IP](#), lawyers reflected on Denison’s accomplishments. For example, lawyers credit her with getting the trademark office into an electronic filing environment, a rule that becomes mandatory on December 21 2019. During Denison’s tenure, the USPTO passed a rule requiring foreign-domiciled trademark applicants to be represented by US attorneys. The purpose of the rule, which went into effect in August 2019, was to address suspicious filings coming from overseas. Lawyers also praise Denison for her responsiveness and say that she has been more active than past commissioners in reaching out to the trademark community.



Elizabeth Carroll, chief legal counsel, IP Australia

Elizabeth Carroll is the chief legal counsel at IP Australia. Before taking up this role, she served as the general counsel and executive director of legal and compliance at the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, and principal lawyer at the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. One of the innovative measures she has been involved in is the passing of legislation to allow the IP commissioner and registrars to make decisions electronically. Another accomplishment is the creation of the “Smart Trade Mark” blockchain-based solution to fight against counterfeits. Another area of focus in the coming months will be examining options to protect partial designs and virtual designs, as the designs industry is an important sector of Australia’s economy. Protection of indigenous knowledge is also an area that she will be involved in, to increase awareness and understanding of the use and misappropriation of such knowledge. She has made valuable



contributions to the legal profession, particularly in her role as chair of the Australian Government Legal Network Board. In her role, she led the development of the legal circles programme, a cross-agency mentoring initiative for Commonwealth lawyers.

Fernando dos Santos, director general, ARIPO

Full interview

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) has made great strides towards its goal of

becoming a paperless office. According to director general Fernando dos Santos, the office is now offering online services 24/7, and in 2019, 94% of patent applications were filed online. He highlights the historic agreement between ARIPO, WIPO and Africa's other major regional IP office, the Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle, to promote cooperation and technical assistance. Although the agreement was signed in October 2018, its impact has been felt in 2019. The three offices also hosted a dedicated conference in Harare, Zimbabwe, in November, where 45 countries adopted the "Action Plan on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Value Addition for Business Competitiveness and Sustainable Development in Africa". Earlier in the year, the "Nairobi Strategic Plan for the Development of Copyright and Related Rights in Africa" was similarly approved. This year also saw dos Santos conduct successful negotiations with the Seychelles, which will become ARIPO's 20th member state pending approval by its parliament. Dos Santos, who has been [interviewed by Managing IP in the past](#), is in his second four-year term as director general; his tenure expires in December 2020.



Charles Gore, executive director, Medicines Patent Pool



UN-backed organisation Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) aims to deliver low cost essential medicines to lower middle-income countries in order to increase access to healthcare. Under Gore's leadership MPP has improved access to HIV drug dolutegravir to almost four million people in the developing world. The patent model works by facilitating voluntary licensing agreements between pharma innovators and generics companies to mass produce cheaper versions of HIV and tuberculosis drugs. In [an interview with Managing IP's Patent Strategy](#), Gore called the MPP model a "win-win" situation for pharma innovators and generics companies. "Innovators tend to see our actions as philanthropy. But what we want is a solid business case to give licences. We can arrange royalties for the innovators and give them an income stream. But there are other things we can do too; innovators' rankings on the access to medicines index goes up, for

example," said Gore. A unique advantage of the licensing model is that generics companies can combine HIV medications from different pharma companies into single doses to come up with better drugs. The licensing agreement with ViiV Healthcare allowed generics companies to combine dolutegravir with Gilead's tenofovir, for example, to create a fixed-dose single medication. "Because of the pooling with different generics companies, there could be a situation where people in the developing world are getting better drugs. This is a perfect example of something happening in lesser developed countries that isn't happening in the developed world," says Gore.

Andrei Iancu, director, USPTO

Full interview

Nearly two years after taking the helm, Andrei Iancu continues to make his mark as USPTO director and appears for the second time on this list. Supporters say that he has taken major strides in making changes to try to better balance the patent system in particular. Highlights this year include the USPTO issuing Section 101 and 112 guidelines in January. One lawyer says this has helped tackle the "101 bottleneck" in the examination process. However, the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has said clearly that it is not bound by the guidelines on patent eligibility, prompting [commentators to argue](#) that they hold little weight and call for a legislative fix. When [Managing IP interviewed Iancu](#) earlier this year, he told us that in the six months after the release of the guidelines, office actions containing a 101 rejection decreased on average by 6%. The USPTO also implemented a pilot programme on motions to amend and updated the Patent Trial and Appeal Board's trial practice guide this year. Meanwhile, the effects of the switch from using the broadest reasonable interpretation standard to that used in district courts for construing claims have continued to be felt. Iancu is seen as well engaged with the IP community and being candid and approachable.



Daren Tang, CEO, IPOS



Full interview

Since starting as chief executive at IPOS, Singapore's IP office, Daren Tang has been focusing on transforming it from an IP registry to an agency that helps enterprises grow through use of intangible assets. One of the innovative programmes that has been implemented under his leadership is the fintech fast-track initiative, which helps businesses bring their fintech innovations to market more rapidly by granting patents as quickly as within six months, compared to at least two years for normal applications. Another programme is the accelerated initiative for artificial intelligence (AI), which enables businesses to bring their AI inventions faster to the global market through Singapore. To boost innovation in the ASEAN region, IPOS, together with eight other ASEAN IP offices, is prioritising patent

applications in emerging technologies such as fintech, cybersecurity and robotics. Tang holds key positions in several national-level, IP and innovation-related committees. He was elected in 2017 as chairperson of WIPO's standing committee on copyright and related rights, where he leads discussions on developments in global copyright. Managing IP's interview with Tang can be found [here](#).

Cláudio Vilar Furtado, president, INPI

Cláudio Vilar Furtado, president of Brazil's IP office INPI, was announced as president in February 2019. During his tenure, the office has issued the Preliminary Standardised Office Action Program, which is intended to reduce the patent backlog by 80% over the next two years. Additionally, INPI will have an important role to play in helping the country transition to the Madrid System, which it entered on October 2 2019. There is no one person to credit for Brazil's entrance into the Madrid System. Lawyers say that lobbying from the National Confederation of Industry (CNI) played a major role in getting the country on board with joining. In [interviews with Managing IP](#), lawyers predicted mixed implications for Brazil. Some expressed concern that the changes to the system would result in a reduction of work for local lawyers, but others said that Brazilian attorneys would be less reliant on foreign colleagues when filing internationally. Joining the system is particularly relevant for Brazilian companies looking to expand internationally, though being part of the system makes it easier for more foreign companies to register their rights in Brazil, Latin America's largest economy.

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

COMMENTS
