

For Immediate Release
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Patent Oppositions: Good for Europe? Good for the United States?
Loyola Law School Los Angeles Gathers Top Attorneys, Patent-Office Officials & Practitioners to Analyze and Critique the European Patent System as it Applies to the US

Los Angeles, June 22, 2006 —Loyola Law School presents “Patent Oppositions: Good for Europe? Good for the United States?” tomorrow, June 23rd, at its downtown Los Angeles campus. The program, part of its Special IP Focus Series, will explore the pros and cons of adopting the European Patent Office’s (EPO) post-grant opposition procedure in the US. The day-long seminar will explain and critique the European system with expert analysis from a wide range of experts. High-ranking officials from both the EPO and the US Patent & Trademark Office are scheduled to speak.

The program will focus on whether the post-grant review process would improve patent quality, reveal overlooked prior art and reduce subsequent litigation in the US. It would also consider how the process would affect the recent surge in patenting that has increased patent-office backlogs and raised concerns that suspect patents are being issued.

Sessions include “An Overview of EPO Opposition Procedure,” on formal and substantive requirements for an admissible opposition and the appeals process; “Strategies for Obtaining a Successful Outcome at the EPO—For the Opponent and the Patentee,” on methods before and at oral proceedings; “How Well Does Post-Grant Opposition Work in the EPO?,” on whether the process reduces litigation and improves patents; and “Proposals for Post-Grant Opposition in the US,” on the various US proposals.

The keynote speaker is Fernand Eiden, a principal director at the EPO. Moderators and speakers include James Toupin, general counsel of the US Patent and Trademark Office; Judge Michael R. Fleming, an administrative patent judge on the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences; and Dr. Hans-Rainer Jaenichen, a European patent and trademark attorney; Dr. Gerhard Hermann, European trademark and patent attorney; Dr. Christian Gugerell, director in the biotechnology sector of the European Patent Office; Steven McAuley, an intellectual property attorney for Boston Scientific Corporation; Shawn E. McDonald, who specializes in patent infringement litigation; Bill Rooklidge, also a specialist in patent infringement litigation; Andrew H. Simpson, who specializes in international intellectual property protection and enforcement; and Bob Blackburn, an independent intellectual property consultant.

Members of the media are invited to attend. For access, please contact Brian Costello at brian.costello@lls.edu. A complete schedule and speaker biographies are available at events.lls.edu/ip-focus/patent-oppositions. More information about the Special IP Focus series is available at www.lls.edu/ip.

About Loyola Law School Los Angeles

Located in downtown Los Angeles—a legal, financial and media capital—Loyola Law is home to prominent faculty, dedicated students and cutting-edge programs. Committed to legal ethics and the public interest, Loyola Law School has produced top attorneys for nearly a century. For expert commentary, please contact Brian Costello, deputy director of communications, at 213.736.1444 or brian.costello@lls.edu. For more information on Loyola Law, please visit www.lls.edu.

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