

Daily Journal

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Intellectual Property

The intellectual property space looms increasingly large in California's legal industry. As staff writer Craig Anderson writes, the Central District of California is now the largest IP venue in the nation. The Northern District, with its proximity to technology companies that fuel the nation's economic engine, also plays a crucial role. And then there is the Southern District, home to many of the nation's biotech companies.

We began this list three years ago to recognize lawyers in California who are working on the world's cutting edge issues. Across California, lawyers are helping to draft and protect patents, trademarks and copyrights that bring us cleaner energy, faster technology, better medicine and

more captivating entertainment.

Our process for selecting these lists — 75 IP Litigators, patent prosecutors and license specialists, — is two-fold. We solicit nominations from firms, agencies, corporate counsels and other interested parties. Our staff reporters also nominate lawyers based on cases they've covered. We look for lawyers whose work had the most impact on their client and more importantly on the area of law and the larger society. Read on, to see what we found.

— The Editors

75 LEADING IP LITIGATORS



ROBERT A. VAN NEST

KEKER & VAN NEST, SAN FRANCISCO

Patent

Van Nest has done legal battle with research scientists at Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization on behalf of Intel Corp. in a case over patents on wireless technology that settled in April 2009 a week into the trial in the Eastern District of Texas. He is currently representing Broadcom Corp. defending another patent infringement case against CSIRO over wireless products.

A July settlement between Medtronic Inc. and Abbott Laboratories in a patent dispute over cardiac stent technology yielded \$42 million for Van Nest's client, Vancouver-based evYsio Medical Devices ULC, which invented several of the stent designs.

An October trial in which Van Nest and William Lee of WilmerHale represented Intel Corp. against the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation settled for undisclosed terms. He is serving as lead trial counsel for Medtronic Inc. in another patent infringement case in Delaware. Van Nest is a name partner at San

Francisco litigation boutique Keker & Van Nest.



JEFFREY CHANIN

KEKER & VAN NEST, SAN FRANCISCO

Trade secret and patent

In one of the largest trade secrets cases filed in California, Chanin won a bench trial, sanctions for spoliation of evidence and then a jury verdict for the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. against a rival semiconductor producer based in China. TSMC accused rival Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp. of continuing to use proprietary technology even after signing a settlement agreement resolving a previous legal dispute.

The case, tried in Alameda County Superior Court, settled in November for \$200 million in cash plus \$130 million in stock. The agreement was reached during the damages phase of the trial, at which TSMC was seeking as much as \$1 billion. Chanin then assisted Beijing to get a lawsuit filed by Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp. dismissed.