

***The excerpts below are from Managing Intellectual Property magazine's July/August 2005 article entitled "IP's Most Important Figures," which can be accessed online at [www.managingip.com](http://www.managingip.com) .***

## **Managing Intellectual Property**

**July / August 2005 - Features**

### **IP's most important figures**

Over the next 16 pages, MIP presents its third annual list of the most influential people in the IP world. Join us as we reveal the 2005 top 50

Who are the most influential people in IP? The politicians who push through new legislation that changes the way businesses and consumers behave? The judges who ensure that those rules are upheld and whose decisions sharpen the cutting edge of IP law? Or the business people and their lawyers whose innovative use of IP boosts its economic value and raises the profile of an easily overlooked asset? Or the lobbyists who campaign on their behalf? Or the regulators who manage the IP protection process? The activists who challenge the way we think about IP rights and inject insights into the way that global IP rules affect individuals in places we may never have heard of into dry legal debates? Or the academics whose high ivory towers enable them to see the big IP picture more clearly than IP practitioners caught up in the minutiae of day-to-day IP work? Or the inventors and creators without whose work there would be no IP industry?

Representatives of all of these influential sectors are included in the list. Of course, the *MIP* team considered many more people than those named here and only finalized the list after much discussion and consultation with IP practitioners.

Although we believe the list represents the most important trends in IP theory and practice, it is not a survey and it is not scientifically compiled. No one has paid to be included; no lobbying has taken place. The order of appearance in the list does not reflect any ranking.

#### **The MIP 50 at-a-glance**

Are the Americans losing their influence in IP? According to *MIP's* list of the world's 50 most influential people they could be. This year 16 make it on to our list, compared to 21 last year and 23 in 2003.

More judges are included this year, a reflection perhaps of the growing importance of judicial decisions in areas of law where legislation lags behind technological developments. This year eight are listed, from jurisdictions as diverse as India, China, Japan and the US. We have included eight academics, including IPKat, the feline creation of Jeremy Philips and Ilanah Simon, and authors Adam Jaffe and Josh Lerner. There are four politicians, 13 regulators, 12 in-house counsel and representatives from industry associations, two campaigners, one inventor and two people who do not fit comfortably into any of these categories.

#### **Lamar Smith House IP subcommittee**

Smith continues to impress the Washington DC insiders of the IP world with his dedication to the House of Representative's subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property. The subcommittee has a full slate of IP work, most notably proposals for a patent omnibus bill. If the bill is passed, it will see the US adopt a first-to-file system, eliminate best mode practice and place a limit on damages awarded for wilful infringement. The bill will also require the USPTO to publish all patent applications. If passed, the law would dramatically alter the US patent regime - in large part thanks to the efforts of Smith and his staff.