

MewburnEllis

LLP

PATENTS • TRADEMARKS • DESIGNS • COPYRIGHT

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Patent Attorney

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Outline

- About me
- What do patent attorneys actually do?
- What qualities do you need?
- Career path
- Transfer from academia
- Questions (and answers?)

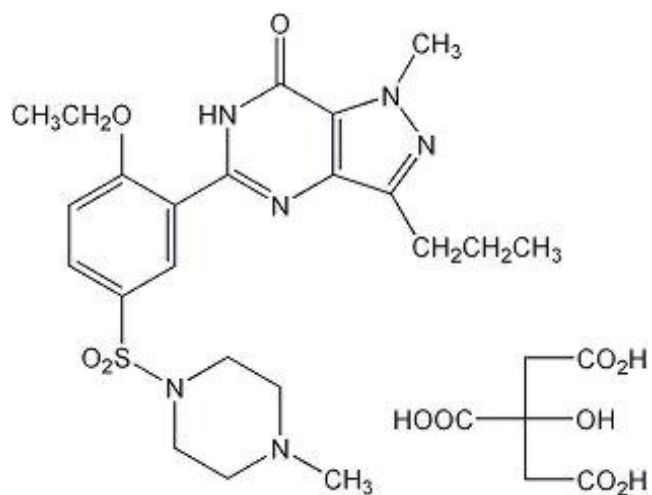
Robert Andrews

- Biochemistry degree in Oxford, PhD in Cambridge (Establishment of embryo polarity)
- Joined Mewburn Ellis – September 2006
- Qualified UK attorney – March 2010
- Qualified European Attorney – October 2011
- Almost entirely biotechnology work (industrial enzymology, fungal genomics, stem cell biology, medical devices), a few general mechanical inventions

An idea!



It's worth money ... how do you protect it?



Types of intellectual property

- Patents protect how something works
- Designs protect how something looks
- Copyright protects expression of ideas, literary works, computer programs
- Trade marks protect “badge of origin”, reputation – ‘brand’

Why have a patent?

Patentee gets

- Right to exclude others from commercial exploitations
- In return for
 - Making the invention
 - Disclosing the invention



Where does Mewburn Ellis fit in?

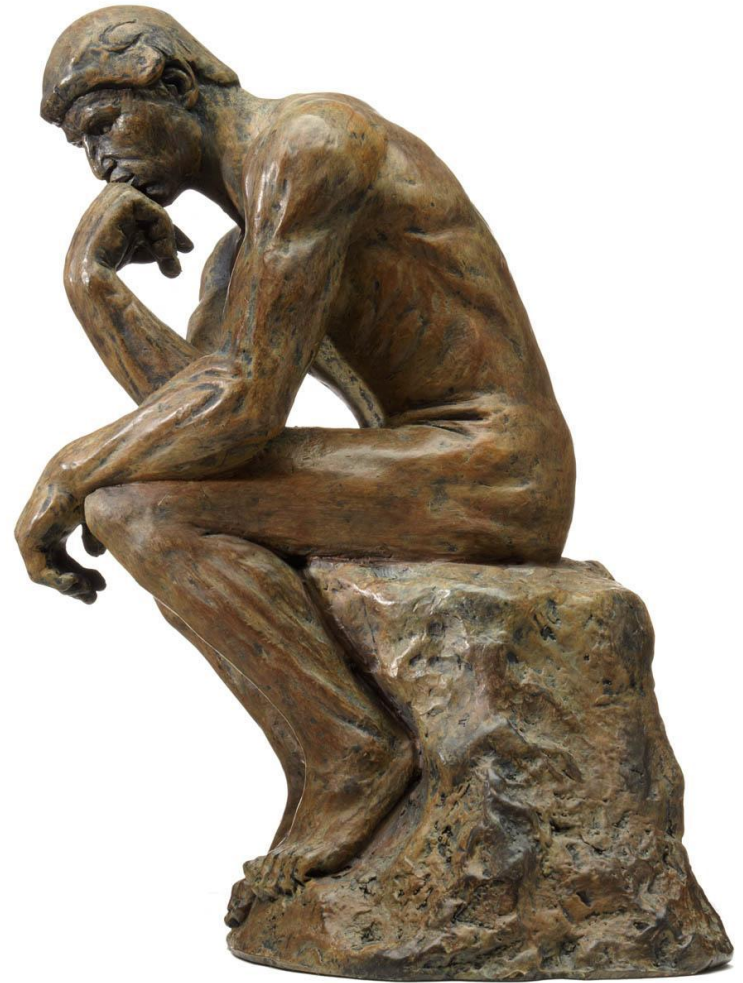
- Specialist IP attorneys
 - patents, designs, trademarks, copyright
- Detailed knowledge of how to obtain registered rights
- Advise on enforcement of rights
- Private practice (but also 'in house')
- Contacts worldwide

What does a patent attorney do?

- Understanding an invention
- Describing the invention
- Explaining the invention to other people
- Justifying your description of the invention to other people

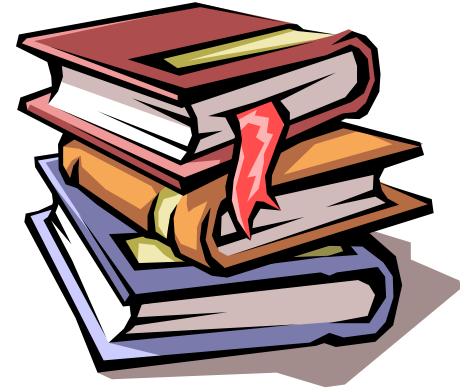
Or, more simply...

- READ A LOT
- THINK A LOT
- WRITE A LOT



Qualities you need ...

- Good all-round technical and scientific awareness
- Analytical approach combined with a certain feeling for, and grasp of, words
- Excellent communication skills – written and oral
- The ability to work under pressure



Career path

At least 4 years to full qualification

- Start work September 2013
- Foundation college course October 2014 – part qualified March 2015
- UK Final exams November 2015 – UK qualified April 2016
- European pre-exams March 2016 – right to sit full European exams awarded August 2016
- European exams March 2017 – European qualified August 2017

Partnership, 3-5 years after full qualification

The Good Bits

- Intellectually stimulating on a daily basis
- Front-line involvement in new technology
- Excellent financial rewards
- Good working hours (usually)
- Partnership prospects



The Bad Bits

- Length of training
- Exams
- Pressure of working to deadlines



Comparisons with Academia

- Work with innovations so often in contact with academia
- Can be difficult to get out of research mindset
- More commercial awareness required (depends on you PhD)
- Strict deadlines imposed on you
- Service provider so client relations important
- Desk job

Skills I still use

- Scientific understanding
 - More degree level (and A-level!) than PhD
- Analytical skills – legal analysis, logical reasoning
- Communication skills – oral and written
 - Writing papers, presenting at conferences etc.
- Time management

Things I had to learn

- General business sense
- Commercial awareness of products
- Legal analysis



QUESTIONS?

www.insidecareers.co.uk

www.mewburn.com

www.cipa.org.uk

www.patent.gov.uk

www.epo.org

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