

IN THE GLOBAL INTEREST

BY DR. STANLEY P. KOWALSKI '05, SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

Students Gain Experience Working on Global IP Projects

Developing a User Friendly Online HIV-1 Vaccine Patent Database

As part of an ongoing project with the Public-sector Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture (PIPRA), Pierce Law is contributing to the construction of a publicly available, user-friendly online HIV-1 vaccine patent database. The database will be composed of both issued patents and published applications that are pertinent to the global patent landscape for HIV vaccine-related technologies. A group of nine Pierce Law students recently participated in this effort by researching, identifying and categorizing patents relevant to HIV-adenoviral vector vaccines, a highly complex vaccine technology, with a correspondingly complex patent landscape. By providing patent information that will help minimize the risk of global intellectual property constraints, yet maximize sustainable global impact, this contribution by the students will assist scientists and policymakers to formulate informed decisions regarding the research, development, commercialization and global deployment of efficacious HIV-1 vaccines. This work was conducted as part of a clinical course offered through Pierce Law's International Technology Transfer Institute.



A group of nine Pierce Law students recently participated in an effort to research, identify and categorize patents relevant to HIV-adenoviral vector vaccines. Pictured l. to rt.: first row: Constance Rogers '09, Bumrae Cho '09, Michelle Windom '09; second row: Yu Hui (Lisa) Sung '09, Cyril Chan '10, Tristan Carrier '10; third row: Ee Ming Yap '09, Alexandre Ferre '10 and Todd Pratt '09.



Representatives of Pierce Law met with officials of the Universidad Militar Nueva Granada (UMNG) in Botoga, Colombia this fall to discuss technology transfer. Pictured l. to rt.: Natalia Sepulveda Pence '10, Nestor G. Sepulveda, dean of engineering at UMNG, Dr. Stanley P. Kowalski JD '05 and Dr. Peter Gregory, professor (adjunct) plant breeding and genetics at Cornell University.

Technology Transfer in Colombia

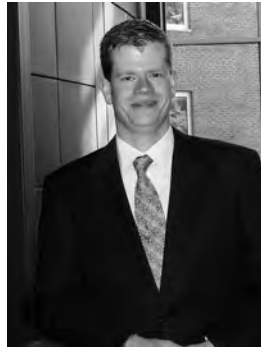
In November 2008, a team of intellectual property/international development experts traveled to Bogota, Colombia. Led by project manager Natalia Sepulveda Pence, a third-year law student, the purpose of this mission was to engage the Universidad Militar Nueva Granada (UMNG) in preliminary discussions about building human and institutional capacity and capabilities in intellectual property management, technology transfer and innovation mobilization. Dr. Stanley Kowalski JD '05 and Dr. Peter Gregory, professor (adjunct) of plant breeding and genetics at Cornell University, accompanied Pence to her native country. During their visit, the Pierce Law team delivered a series of lectures to an audience of nearly 50 faculty and deans from the UMNG as well as government officials.

A potential long-term project objective is to assist UMNG in establishing a technology transfer office that would manage intellectual property, harvest inventions and develop innovations at UMNG. The office would also foster the transfer of technology from foreign organizations and build a system for developing Colombia's vast national treasure of biodiversity and genetic resources. The office could also be tasked with fostering a knowledge-based economy in Colombia, building awareness of the role of intellectual property in national development, and establishing sustainable capacity in innovation management.

Currently a candidate for a JD/LLM, Pence holds an AS in nursing from Aquinas College and a BA in biology from Virginia Wesleyan College. She plans to use her nursing and biology background to pursue a career in intellectual property management and licensing in the public health sector.

Identifying IP Issues Related to Biofuels

Third-year student John Kenyon is currently working on an ITTI project that will identify potential intellectual property issues related to the principal biomass resources for biodiesel production. Biofuels are being developed to either augment or replace fossil fuels. A promising biofuel, biodiesel is derived from several biomass resources: rapeseed/canola, oil palm, soybean, sunflower and algae. Each has technological, environmental, and agricultural advantages and disadvantages. Intellectual property issues will also impact the utilization and development of these resources; this not only



John Kenyon '09

includes patents, but also genetic resources and biodiversity, plant variety protection and germplasm resources. Kenyon plans to develop this project into a manuscript, tentatively entitled "Intellectual Property and Biodiesel Biomass: A Comparison of Major Agricultural and Algacultural Resources," for submission to a professional, peer-reviewed journal.

Kenyon, a JD/LLM candidate, earned a BA in political science and chemistry from Davidson College. Following graduation, he plans to pursue part-time study in the biotechnology program at Johns Hopkins University and a career in patent law with an emphasis on business and intellectual property development in the biotechnology sector.

Developing Effective Global Partnerships in Education and Industry



Shaswhat Purhoit '09

Third-year student Shaswhat Purhoit is currently working with Pierce Law's International Technology Transfer Institute on a study with broad, global implications, "Developing Effective University/Industry/Government partnerships in Key Economies: Engineering More Innovative Environments." Focusing on India-specific issues, this study is designed to provide an informational tool that examines,

illustrates and elucidates the dynamic engagement of governments and academia in a dialogue that fosters industrial development of government-assisted academic-based innovation. This includes analysis of the possibility and potential impact of transporting a legal mechanism similar to the United States Bayh-Dole Act into India. Also under analysis is the current extent of and mechanisms in place for University/Industry/Government partnerships and technology transfer.

Purhoit recently launched an ITTI Blog which provides a forum for analyzing global and international policy developments and providing management tips in various areas of the ever-growing field of technology transfer and university intellectual property management.

An LLM candidate at Pierce Law, Purhoit holds a BA, LLB (Hons) from the National Law University, Jodhpur, India. While attending Pierce Law, he served as a judge at the Jessup Mid Atlantic Super Regional Rounds at George Washington University Law School and for the Jessup International Rounds in 2007-2008. Purhoit's key areas of interests include technology transfer, venture capital, intellectual property securitization and licensing.