

Managing Intellectual Property™

Incorporating IP Asia
April 2005
www.managingip.com

UNITED STATES



Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Chicago

Russell E Levine, PC

IP resources on the web

We hear all of the time that the internet has changed our lives. Well, it also has changed the way we practise law and has allowed us to obtain information about US patents, patent applications, and patent cases almost instantaneously. Such information enables us to answer our client's questions cost effectively. I have found that several of the US government-sponsored, IP-related websites are particularly helpful. Moreover, these sites are free and do not require an account set-up.

The website for the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

(www.fedcir.gov) is useful. There, you can obtain copies of Court opinions and orders – which are posted daily. You can check the Court's docket, view the current and prior week's disposition sheet, and see a list of new cases filed within the past 90 days. You also can see which cases are going to be argued, when they are going to be argued, and which judges will be on the panel for those cases. Statistics are also available. An example is the following statistic posted on the site: during the 12-month period ending September 30, 2004, 13% of the appeals from US district courts were reversed.

Another useful website is the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) page – <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>. PAIR contains information regarding patent application status. You can determine whether office actions have issued, whether responses

have been filed and in some instances, you can view documents that are a part of the file history. The information in PAIR is real-time and thus it is a significant resource for those interested in determining or monitoring the status of particular patent applications.

Yet another useful and helpful website is that for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (www.uspto.gov). This site not only contains information about patents and trade marks, but also contains news, laws, policies, rules and a whole host of additional information. There also is a link to the Patent and Trademark Electronic Business Centers where numerous fee-based services are available.

The US government and/or its departments or agencies have put an enormous amount of information on the web within our reach. Take advantage of the resources available and use them to your benefit.