

〈英国〉



## 企業内知財部門へのサポート

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知的財産の仕組みは、一見複雑そうに見えます。このことは、エンジニアリング、ブランド開発、財務など他の分野でスキルや経験を積んできたのに、知的財産ポートフォリオのマネージャーになってしまった企業内人材にとって問題となり得ます。そのため、知的財産のサポート業務に消極的になることがあります。しかし、このような役割を担い、スキルを向上させるための多くのサポートが用意されているので安心です。

もちろん弁理士として、筆者はいつでも喜んで手助けをする顧問弁護士を紹介します。しかし、知的財産制度やその運用方法、また雇用者に代わって知的財産ポートフォリオを管理する方法を学ぶためには、他の多くのリソースも利用可能です。まず頼りになるのは、各国の特許庁です。多くの特許庁が、中小企業やそのサポートチームを支援するための優れた無料リソースを用意しています。欧州特許庁、米国特許商標庁、特に英国知的財産権庁などの機関には、基本的な特許手続きを説明する簡便な無料資料があります。その多くは、特許制度を初めて利用する人向けに書かれています。英国知的財産権庁、米国特許商標庁、欧州知的財産権庁などでは、商標や登録意匠など他の分野の資料も充実しています。

知的財産制度の基本原則を理解した後は、国家機関のウェブサイトだけでなく、各地域の知的財産専門家組織が提供するリソースを通じて、さらに理解を深めることが可能です。多くの組織が知的財産制度との関わりを大切にしており、社内チームの学習と能力開発をサポートする基礎コースを提供しています。これらのコースの多くは、必要なスキルについてより深く学ぶための、信頼できる低コストな方法です。

このようなサプライヤーから入手できる資料は非常に多く、どれがベストかわからないこともあります。その場合、あなたとチームに利用可能で最適なりソー

スについて十分な知識を持っている、現時点の法律顧問に相談することをお勧めします。

(邦訳：当研究所)

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## Support for In-House IP Teams

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The intellectual property system can seem complicated at first. This can be a problem for individuals within a company who find themselves responsible for managing an intellectual property portfolio even though their skills and experience lie in other areas of their business, such as engineering, brand development, or finance. This can make people reluctant to take on the role of intellectual property support. They should be reassured however that there are plenty of resources available to support them as they take on such a role and develop their skills.

As a patent attorney I would of course always point people to their company's legal advisors, who are happy to help. However, many other resources are also available to learn about the intellectual property system and how it operates, as well as how to manage IP portfolios on behalf of their employers. A first reliable point of reference can be your national patent office. Many such offices have excellent free resources to help smaller companies and their support teams. Organisations such as the European Patent Office, the US Patent Office, and particularly the UK Intellectual Property Office, have simple free materials which explain the basic patent procedures. Much of this is written for people coming to the patent system for the first time. Some of these offices, notably the UKIPO, USPTO and European Intellectual Property Office, also have good resources for other areas, such as trade marks and registered designs.

Once someone has understood the basic principles of the IP system it is possible to advance understanding further not only through the national government office websites, but also through the resources made available by local professional IP attorney organisations. Many are happy to encourage interaction with the IP system and therefore provide basic courses to support the learning and development of in-house teams. These are often a reliable and low-cost way to learn more about the skills you need.

Following on from this it is also useful to investigate the availability of free tutorials and lectures that many IP service companies provide. Most larger legal firms, as well as other service providers such as translators, technical searching, and drawing drafting also provide

resources to assist.

There are a large number of resources available from such suppliers, so many that sometimes it can be difficult to know which is best. Again then I would suggest that a good point of reference is your current legal advisor, who will normally have a good knowledge of the resources available and the ones which may best suit you and your team.