



TOP 50 UNDER 45

From appellate guru to anti-counterfeiting strategist—all through the varied spectrum of IP—these winners are distinguished by their sheer brainpower, legal smarts, creativity and hard work.

—Pamela Sherrid, Editor, *IP Law & Business*

EDITOR'S NOTE

I have never sat on an admissions committee for Harvard or Princeton, but I now have much more empathy for their difficult task. How do you make the cut among so many qualified applicants? We began soliciting nominations for our Top IP People Under 45 feature last winter—230 impressive individuals were proposed, some multiple times. To anyone who didn't make our 50-person list, here are some of the reasons.

Like any Ivy League admissions committee, we were looking for a certain amount of diversity. That meant we wanted to include representatives from the many facets of IP: trademark, copyright, patent, and trade secrets, and different kinds of practices, such as litigation, transaction, and policy work. Likewise, we wanted to include a wide range of geography and top-notch law firms, and for the most part included only one person from each firm. And we limited the attorneys to those who practice U.S. law.

But enough of who is *not* on the list: Those who made it offer a unique

and dynamic portrait of today's IP world. They combine raw brain power with hard work, canny legal skills, and a talent for being in the right place at the right time. Perhaps my favorite tale in the collection is the one told by writer Susan Hansen of the meeting a few years ago at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr, where former U.S. Army captain and biology Ph.D. Jane Love was up for partner. According to managing partner William Lee, as the assembled partners listened to Love's accomplishments, one of the other partners leaned forward and asked, "Are they telling me all this to try to make me feel bad about myself?" In response, I say, no, we aren't trying to make you feel bad, but rather proud of the IP community that can nurture such talent.

Pamela Sherrid
Editor



From hotshot litigators to savvy in-house managers, the best of IP's young masters.



OLIVER ASHE, 42

Shareholder
ASHE, P.C.

Don't interfere with Oliver Ashe. When he jumped ship from Sughrue Mion to Greenblum & Bernstein as a sixth-year associate, he took Dow AgroSciences's interference work on genetically modified crops with him, netting his first designation as lead counsel for the multimillion-dollar case to boot. The Catholic University biology major and law grad has more interference proceedings under his belt than most prosecution attorneys have racked up by retirement. Clients Affymetrix, Genentech, and the University of California followed Ashe when he opened his own boutique in Reston, Virginia, in the fall of 2006. If patent reform and a first-to-file regime means that interference is dead, Ashe is positioning his firm for the advent of post-grant cancellation proceedings.