

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY **HOT LIST**



A SPECIAL REPORT

This week we recognize 15 law firms that accomplish great things in the realm of intellectual property law. We asked our readers to suggest firms that won major cases during 2014—both in dollars and impact—and received dozens of replies. We also conducted our own extensive research to identify the firms you'll find profiled here. They range from major firms with 1,000 or more lawyers to smaller shops that do IP law exclusively.

WILLIAMS & CONNOLLY

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY **HOT LIST**



THOMAS SELBY and ADAM PERLMAN

Williams & Connolly

Following a nearly three-week trial in 2014, a jury in Montgomery County, Maryland, awarded Williams & Connolly client Mirowski Family Ventures LLC \$309 million in a breach-of-contract and patent-licensing case against Boston Scientific Corp.

The dispute involved patents for implantable cardioverter defibrillator technology invented by the late Michel

Mirowski. The venture claimed that Boston Scientific—which had bought a company that licensed Mirowski's patents—broke an agreement to involve the family in decisions about patent cases and traded away valuable infringement claims in Indiana and Delaware. The verdict is on appeal.

"Presenting complex issues in a jury trial situation is our stock and trade," said partner Thomas Selby, who co-leads the IP practice. "It goes back to the foundations of Williams & Connolly—of taking very complicated and sometimes difficult facts and presenting them in a compelling manner, in a way that a jury can understand, comprehend and act upon."

Intellectual property is one of the largest practices at Williams & Connolly. The firm has built its IP bench the same way it has developed its partnership ranks—eschewing lateral hires in favor of in-house training.

"We do it all home-grown: We hire associates off clerkships or out of law school. No lateral hiring or taking on a practice group," said partner Adam Perlman, who also co-leads the practice.

Perlman last year led the successful defense of the validity of client Eli Lilly and Co.'s patents for anti-cancer drug Alimta—the company's second largest drug worldwide—in the federal district court in Indianapolis.

"Our experts came across very, very credibly. They acknowledged facts that were detrimental to their opinion and explained why it didn't change their opinion," Perlman said. "That is how you win patent cases."

—ZOE TILLMAN

FIRM FACTS:

■ **Year founded:** 1967 ■ **Headquarters:** Washington ■ **Total attorneys:** 275 ■ **IP partners:** 24 ■ **IP associates:** 27

WILLIAMS & CONNOLLY LLP®

725 Twelfth Street NW, Washington DC 20005

T: (202)434-5000 F: (202)434-5029

www.wc.com