

CIPA Introductory Lecture

A Career in Patents

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Content

- The early years
- Social, networking and support
- Training and Competencies
- Exams
- Life after exams
 - Future training options
 - Types of attorney

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WPT HOMPSON
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Early Years...



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WPT HOMPSON
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Work of a Patent Attorney

- Reviewing and reporting examination reports
- Drafting responses to the UKIPO and EPO
- Instructing foreign attorneys
- Formalities – Assignments, licences, renewals, etc.
- Drafting patent applications
- Client meetings
- (Oral proceedings/opposition)
- Assisting your team/Partner

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In-house/ Private Practice

In-house

- Specialise in one type of technology
- Oversee all aspects of IP
- Less “client” interaction

Private Practice

- More variety of subject-matter & clients
- Tighter deadlines (potentially)

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Social, Networking and Support

- CIPA – Student Member
- *epi* – Required for European qualifications
- Informals
- IP Inclusive
- Study Groups



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Informals

- By trainees, for trainees
 - Informals Committee is made up of trainee patent attorneys from around the UK
- Yellow Sheet - <https://yellowsheet.wordpress.com/>
- Training webinars, lectures and tutorials
- Mentoring and buddy schemes
- Wacky Patents
- Social Events
- Sports Tournaments
- News Updates
- Regional Events



THE YELLOW SHEET
The Official Blog of the Informals Committee

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IP Inclusive

- Ensuring that for all those who have the necessary aptitude, regardless of their age, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, physical and cognitive ability, wealth and background, the UK's IP professions are:
 - welcoming
 - accessible
 - respectful
 - supportive



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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

IP Inclusive



IP & ME
Focused on ethnic minority IP professionals



IP Ability
Focused on disabled attorneys, carers and their allies



IP Futures
Focused on early career stage IP professionals



IP Out
Focused on LGBT+ people and their allies



Women in IP
Focused on tackling issues that people face as women in IP

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Training & Competencies

- UK Chartered Patent Attorney (CPA)
- European Patent Attorney (EPA)
- Designs
- Plant Variety Rights
- Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPC)
- Litigator (IPEC and beyond...)
- UPC

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Exams

- Big part of your life for the next few years!
- Read
 - Statutes/Law
 - Case Law
 - Black Book/Visser/Hoekstra
- Internal training
- Informals lectures
- Mentors
- Courses



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Exams

- Foundations (first 1-2 years)

UK

- PEB Foundation Exams
 - FC1 UK Patent Law
 - FC2 English Law
 - FC3 International Law
 - FC4 Design & Copyright Law
 - FC5 Trade Mark Law
- Queen Mary University
- Bournemouth University
- Brunel University



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Exams

- Finals (years 2-4+)

UK

– PEB Finals

- FD1 – Advanced IP Law and Practice
- FD2 – Drafting of Specifications
- FD3 – Amendment of Specifications
- FD4 – Infringement and Validity



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Exams

- Foundations (first 1-2 years)

Europe

- No more Pre-EQE
- Module F (2025)
 - Procedural patent law and claim analysis
 - Minimum 1 year in the profession



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Exams

- Finals (years 2-4+)

Europe

- EQEs – new for 2026/2027
 - Module 1: Analysis and assessment of information and attending to client instructions
 - Module 2: Application of procedural law (EPC and PCT)
 - Module 3 Claim drafting, response to Office Actions and oppositions
 - Module 4: Provision of legal opinions and client advice
- 2 years' experience required for modules 1 & 2
- 3 years' experience required for modules 3 & 4



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Exams

- Finals (years 2-4+)

Key differences to be aware of:

- Different to what the current qualified attorneys sat
- Module F, not pre-EQE (though likely similar)
- “Fit-to-practice”
- Digital platform
- No fixed pass rate
- No compensatory passes



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Exams

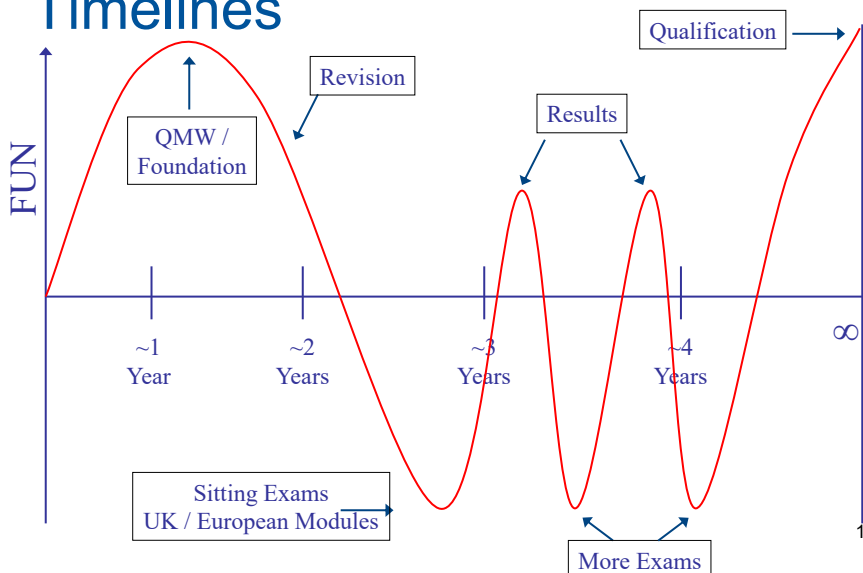
- Juggling work with studying
- Take your time
- Do what works for you
- Accept that failure can happen
 - Try again!!
 - The world won't end!



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Timelines



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After Qualification

- Euphoria
- Steeper learning
- You're the expert
- Know your limits



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The Newly Qualified Attorney

- Continue to ask questions
- Continue learning
 - Practical applications of the theory
 - Conferences/Seminars
 - Case law and updates
- Working for the client
 - Professionalism
 - Client management
 - Case management

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Longer Term Plans

What do you want to do next?

- More specialised training
- Get new business
- Run the business
- Teach
- Relax
- Legacy

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Any questions?

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