

PATENT AGENT PROGRAM

At Osha Liang, more than 90 percent of our patent agents and patent attorneys are hired through the firm's unique Patent Agent Program. The program has proven to be a highly effective method for developing a team of both technically and legally savvy individuals.

The foundation of the program is the members. The firm actively recruits technical professionals from industry and students with technical degrees from top universities throughout the world to become members of the program. Hired in two "class groups" per year, members are apprenticed in patent law through a combination of detailed in-house lectures and careful mentorship, while maintaining their technical expertise through daily application of their technical knowledge through the prosecution of patents. At the end of the first year, successful members take the U.S. patent bar exam. Members who pass the patent bar exam become Patent Agents.

Patent Agents are given the opportunity to attend part-time law school while continuing their education within the Firm. The Firm is fortunate to have its Houston and Silicon Valley offices located near two of the top 10 law schools for Intellectual Property. The University of Houston Law Center's IP program is ranked 4th and Santa Clara University's IP program is ranked 6th amongst law schools nationwide.*

As a result of this program, by the time a member is a first-year attorney, he or she has already benefited from intensive on-the-job

Through rigorous training, we have achieved our goal of superior quality and cost-effective client representation.

training, formal lectures, and mentorship, as well as five years of practical experience. At this point, he or she may choose to continue focusing on prosecution, or move into litigation, licensing, and other aspects of intellectual property, having the benefit of a strong foundation in prosecution.

Through this rigorous training, we have achieved our goal of superior quality and cost-effective client representation. Graduates of the program maintain their technical expertise through being immersed in technology at Osha Liang. Moreover, they develop legal expertise to handle the various aspects of protecting the innovations of our clients. Under partner supervision, these patent agents provide exceptional value to the client in terms of both technical knowledge and cost efficiency.

*According to the U.S. News and World Report's Law Specialty Rankings in Intellectual Property for 2012.

