

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY **HOT LIST**



A SPECIAL REPORT

Even law firms rooted in the 19th and early 20th centuries—and steeped in traditional practices—have become leaders on the latest trends in intellectual property law, fiercely battling a decidedly 21st century development, patent trolls. We received dozens of nominations for our annual list of the hottest IP firms, and after extensive research concluded the 20 listed below deserved the accolade. Many rank among the most venerable in the country. Apparently that’s no bar to life on the cutting edge.

# **STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX**

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MONICA RIVA TALLEY

## Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox

Two years ago, the Patent Trial and Review Board didn't exist. Formed under the America Invents Act, it represents a new forum for intellectual property lawyers. Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox has ranked among the top three legal players in the number of cases it has filed before this U.S. Patent and Trademark

Office administrative board.

By the end of 2013, the Washington IP-specialist firm had filed 54 such proceedings—more than any other firm—and defended 19. Only Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner and Fish & Richardson compared.

In another move showing its breadth in 2013, Sterne Kessler organized a trademark, advertising and anticounterfeiting practice under Monica Riva Talley. The trademark specialist moved from Finnegan in 2010 and had launched the new group at Sterne Kessler by the end of 2013. She alone brought in 16 new clients last year, including nightclub owner Ashley Sutton and the Partnership for Public Service, she said.

Sterne Kessler in 2013 played a supporting but key role when Sidley Austin's Carter Phillips persuaded the U.S. Supreme Court to consider what promises to be a landmark case involving software patents, including computer-implemented inventions. The court heard the arguments in *Alice Corp. v. CLS Bank International* in March. Sterne Kessler prosecuted Alice Corp.'s patents decades ago, Phillips said. "They obviously have been living with the patents for a very long time," he said. "If you read the three-volume joint appendix in the Supreme Court, you will know how immensely complicated the patents were."

Sterne Kessler's detailed understanding of the patents was of critical importance, Phillips added. When the veteran litigator asked about a detail, a lawyer at Sterne Kessler would email back "in 10 seconds," he said.

—KATELYN POLANTZ

### FIRM FACTS:

■ **Year founded:** 1978 ■ **Headquarters:** Washington ■ **Total attorneys:** 122 ■ **IP partners:** 43 ■ **IP associates:** 70 ■ **Patent agents:** 9