

Standing for Ordinary Member of Council: Mr S M Wright

Simon Wright

Qualifications:

Chartered Patent Attorney (since 1990), European Patent Attorney (since 1992), Registered Trade Mark Attorney, European Trade Mark Attorney, European Design Attorney.

Professional Career:

I started my career at Kilburn and Strode in 1986. I obtained all my professional qualifications there, and moved to J A Kemp in 1994, where I have stayed ever since, becoming a partner in 1999. All of my work concerns patents (UK, European and PCT cases), mainly on the biotechnology side, although I also handle chemical/pharmaceutical work. My clients range from small start-ups and SMEs to multinationals (such as pharmaceutical companies), UK academic institutions, as well as US corporates and universities.

Services to the Institute:

I served on the Informals Committee, organising the Moot, the Annual Ball, the UK exam tutorials and then became Honorary Secretary in 1998.

I joined the Biotechnology Committee (as it then was, now the Life Sciences Committee) in 1998 and took over as Chair from Anna Denholm in 2003. I am currently on the EPO Liaison Committee and joined the International Liaison Committee last year. I am also a member of the Patents Committee and served briefly on the Press & PR Committee (2008 to 2010).

I have been a UK member of epi Council since 2005. I joined the epi's Biotechnology Committee at that time, becoming its Secretary in 2008. I served on the epi Disciplinary Committee as its Secretary from 2008 to 20011 and briefly on the epi's Professional Conduct Committee. I became a member of the epi Board in 2011 and still serve in that position.

Other Relevant Information:

I am a friend of the British Museum and a member of the Royal Academy (of arts) and the Royal Institution (Ri). Hobbies include running, cycling, scuba diving, modern architecture and drinking wine (but not necessarily at the same time).

Election Address:

I have always worked in private practice, although I have been "seconded" to several clients, as in house counsel, over the years. I have been very active in CIPA ever since I joined the profession, and supportive of what the organisation has to offer, though I am sure that we can improve things for the benefits of our members.

I have become increasingly involved in the epi, and I am now actively involved in the Biotechnology Committees for both professional organisations. Hopefully, those of you that work in the biotechnology sector have attended one of the annual CIPA Biotechnology seminars that are organised at the end of November in a country hotel (I have been involved in organising these events for over a decade now).

We face significant changes (and challenges) in the IP profession, not least because of the forthcoming UPC, which we need to embrace and use to our advantage. There are also challenges regarding IPREG and the exam system that need to be addressed. In view of my involvement with the epi, I can act as a bridge between the epi and CIPA, exchanging information and ideas. This can be synergistic, as both bodies can often work together on mutually compatible matters.

Attendance at Council meetings (June 2015 – April 2016):

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