The intellectual property space looms increasingly large in California's legal industry. As staff writer Craig Anderson writes, the Central District of California is now the largest IP venue in the nation. The Northern District, with its proximity to technology companies that fuel the nation's economic engine, also plays a crucial role. And then there is the Southern District, home to many of the nation's biotech companies.

We began this list three years ago to recognize lawyers in California who are working on the world's cutting edge issues. Across California, lawyers are helping to draft and protect patents, trademarks and copyrights that bring us cleaner energy, faster technology, better medicine and more captivating entertainment.

Our process for selecting these lists — 75 IP Litigators, patent prosecutors and license specialists, — is two-fold. We solicit nominations from firms, agencies, corporate counsels and other interested parties. Our staff reporters also nominate lawyers based on cases they've covered. We look for lawyers whose work had the most impact on their client and more importantly on the area of law and the larger society. Read on, to see what we found.

— The Editors

75 LEADING IP LITIGATORS

CARLO F. VAN DEN BOSCH
SHEPPARD MULLIN RICHTER & HAMPTON
ORANGE COUNTY

Trademark

Van den Bosch co-chairs Sheppard Mullin’s Intellectual Property Litigation Group. He spent a vast majority of his time in 2009 working on firm management. He says that given the pressure so many clients felt following the global economic meltdown in fall 2008 he was proud his firm hit its annual revenue goals.

“One of the ways we did that was to be nimble, creative and flexible with alternative fee structures,” he says.

In the courtroom, Van den Bosch argued before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which affirmed an earlier defense verdict for his client, as well as attorney's fees and a punitive damage award stemming from a counterclaim. 2009 also marked the 10-year anniversary of the case in which he made his name: a victory for Brookfield Communications Inc. that yielded a published decision in the area of online trademark infringement via meta tags and domain names.