

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY **HOT LIST** | A SPECIAL REPORT

This week we recognize 15 law firms that accomplish great things in the realm of intellectual property law. We asked our readers to suggest firms that won major cases during 2014—both in dollars and impact—and received dozens of replies. We also conducted our own extensive research to identify the firms you'll find profiled here. They range from major firms with 1,000 or more lawyers to smaller shops that do IP law exclusively.



SALIMA MERANI

Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear

Knobbe Martens has a singular focus—intellectual property law, including patents, trademarks and copyrights. The vast majority of the firm's lawyers hold technical degrees and many have master's, doctorate or medical degrees. With headquarters in Irvine, California, a hotbed for startup medical device companies, the firm is well positioned to represent those companies.

"Clients are ecstatic when they meet with us and don't have to explain what DNA and RNA mean—they can jump right into their complex inventions, since we already have mastered the foundational background," said partner Salima Merani. She is lead counsel for Ulthera Inc., which uses ultrasound technology to rejuvenate skin, and represented the company dur-

ing its recent \$600 million acquisition by pharmaceutical company Merz GmbH & Co. KGaA.

Among Knobbe Martens' victories last year was a patent infringement case involving pulse oximeters, the revolutionary devices that measure oxygen levels in hemoglobin. That information helps prevent premature babies from being given too much oxygen, which can blind them. The firm represented Masimo Corp. in its lawsuit against Philips Electronics North America Corp. and Philips Medizin Systeme Böttingen GmbH for infringing two patents covering the pulse oximeters. In October, a jury found that Philips owed Masimo more than \$466 million. It was the largest jury verdict in a patent case in 2014.

"They have this amazing commitment to making sure justice prevails and I get my day in court," said Joe Kiani, Masimo's founder and chief executive. "That incredible intensity prepares them to just shine."

Joseph Re, who handled the case, said, "We have a much more team-oriented approach than at other law firms, and that's because of how the lawyers are compensated. So when I try a case, I have a lot of senior-level partners working with me."

—LISA LEDNICER

FIRM FACTS:

- **Year founded:** 1962
- **Headquarters of Largest Office:** Irvine, California
- **Total attorneys:** 274
- **IP partners:** 153
- **IP associates:** 121