West Virginia University College of Law Selects TotalPatent® to Provide Students with World-Class Patent Research Tool.

West Virginia University College of Law

Overview

Institution: West Virginia University College of Law

Location: Morgantown, West Virginia

Industry: Law School

Customer Profile: Established in 1878, the West Virginia University College of Law was accredited by the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) in 1914 and the American Bar Association (ABA) in 1923.

Business Situation: In 2011, Shine Tu, Ph.D., J.D., joined the College of Law faculty as an associate professor. Drawing on his experience as a former Intellectual Property (IP) attorney at a global law firm, Dr. Tu designed a new course for second- and third-year law students to provide them with practical experience in patent prosecution. This course was based on real-world simulations including freedom-to-operate searches, invalidity opinions and patentability studies. Accordingly, he needed to provide his students with a patent research tool that students could use to quickly and effectively search for relevant technological references.

Solution: Dr. Tu looked into a variety of patent research solutions—including free Internet resources and third-party products from leading legal research vendors—for the best possible fit. In the end, he was comfortable with the TotalPatent® patent research service from LexisNexis®, which he had used with success while in private practice.

Benefits:

- The TotalPatent service allows WVU law students to conduct quick, intuitive patent searches of a comprehensive international database

- TotalPatent is a powerful patent research tool that can be effectively used by students with limited knowledge of patent law terminology and/or limited technological background

- The TotalPatent Semantic Search option makes it easier for students to identify the most appropriate search terms based on related concepts that will lead them to the best possible result

- Access to 30 full-text patent authorities worldwide decreases the risk of students overlooking important prior art in their patent research

- TotalPatent allows students to create reports on their research quickly and easily by leveraging the tools on the analytics tab to create charts and graphs

Product Summary:

Corporate Solutions

- TotalPatent

West Virginia University College of Law provides students a unique opportunity to attend a small public law school within a nationally recognized research university. To fulfill its commitment to individual student success and to improving the profession by producing the leaders of the future, the school has a rapidly developing curriculum that combines the best of traditional legal education with new courses and opportunities necessary to practice law in a global economy in the 21st century.

Established in 1878, the West Virginia University College of Law was accredited by the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) in 1914 and the American Bar Association (ABA) in 1923. The school is located in Morgantown, West Virginia, which is repeatedly ranked one of the best small college towns as well as one of the best areas for outdoor recreation.

Situation

In June of 2011, the law school hired Shine (Sean) Tu, Ph.D. Dr. Tu joined the faculty after working for several years as an associate with the international law firm Foley & Lardner LLP, where he was a member of the firm's Chemical, Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical practice area, and the Life Sciences and Nanotechnology industry teams.

"When I was in private practice, doing specialized patent prosecution work for clients, I discovered there were a lot of practical things that I had never learned in law school," said Dr. Tu. "So when I became a law professor, I was committed to teaching law students a number of hands-on lessons they would be able to put to use in their practicing careers."

One of the first things that Dr. Tu did after being hired at the law school was to develop a new course called "Patent Prosecution and Claim Drafting" for second- and third-year students. The objective of the class is to provide students with practical experience and knowledge necessary to effectively prosecute patents for clients after they leave law school.

"In order for my students to have a thorough experience in the class, I felt it was important they have access to a patent research tool they could use in handling the simulated patent prosecutions they would be tackling over the course of the semester," he said.

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Solution

Dr. Tu looked into a variety of patent research solutions for his class members to use, including a few Internet resources that were available for free and some commercial products developed by leading legal research providers.

"During my years practicing at Foley & Lardner, I had grown comfortable with a product from LexisNexis® called TotalPatent®," said Dr. Tu. "I felt this would be the good fit for the course, so I approached our law library staff about how we might be able to acquire a sufficient number of licenses of TotalPatent for the students in my class."

The TotalPatent service provides users with access to the largest online collection of enhanced first-level patent data available from a single source. They can research and analyze patent data with the world's largest collection of searchable full-text and bibliographic patent databases, including images, citations, legal status and patent family collections. The database includes:

- 100 patent authorities (30 in full text), plus bibliographic information from 70 more authorities for a total of more than 70 million documents

- Ability to search in either the language in which the patent was originally published or in machine-translated English, including Russian, Japanese and Chinese

- More than 55 million compressed, multi-page, searchable PDFs

- Deep archive that allows research into U.S. patents back to 1790, and many non-U.S. patents back to the 1800s

"TotalPatent runs on an easy search platform and accesses a database with a very comprehensive inventory of international patent records," said Dr. Tu. "I was delighted that we were able to work out an arrangement to acquire access to TotalPatent for the students in my Patent Prosecution class."

Benefits

According to Dr. Tu, the availability of TotalPatent for the students in his class has yielded a number of important benefits.

- Quick searches across a comprehensive database
  "TotalPatent allows my students to do quick, intuitive patent searches on a comprehensive international database," he said. "What's more, they can actually run multiple simultaneous searches in various countries worldwide."

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- Requires minimal legal knowledge
  Dr. Tu has also grown appreciative of the fact that TotalPatent has proven to be a powerful patent research tool that can be effectively used by students with limited knowledge of patent law terminology as well as limited knowledge of the technological fields in which they are searching. WVU students find the search format very easy to use, requiring little subject matter expertise in the area of patents.

- Powerful "Semantic Search"
  "I'm especially fond of the TotalPatent Semantic Search option, which makes it easier for students to identify the most appropriate search terms that will lead them to the best possible result for their project," said Dr. Tu. "It's an amazing technology that takes away some of the guessing involved in searches by giving you a visual illustration of related concepts and letting you customize your search by drilling down with the terms most relevant to your specific need."

- Full-text sources around the world
  TotalPatent provides researchers with access to 30 full-text and 70 bibliographic patent authorities worldwide. This unsurpassed breadth of content decreases the risk of students overlooking important prior art in their patent research, a critical business consideration many of them will confront after leaving law school and entering the practice of IP law.

- Helpful reporting tools
  "I also like the fact that TotalPatent allows my students to create reports on their research quickly and easily," said Dr. Tu. "They achieve this by leveraging the tools on the analytics tab of the product to create charts and graphs."

"TotalPatent allows my students to research and analyze patent data by accessing a large collection of searchable full-text and bibliographic patent databases," he concluded. "This provides me with a powerful tool to help them obtain the kind of hands-on experience in patent prosecution that will be extremely valuable after they graduate law school and enter the legal profession."

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