

A Book Review

A review of current publications relating to the field of Intellectual Property licensing, transfer and tools therein.

*Written for the newsletter of LES Britain and Ireland
by Trevor Hunter, IP Management Consultant*



Working With Technology

Edited by Jennifer Pierce, Solicitor, Charles Russell and Iain Purvis, Barrister, 11 South Square, Gray's Inn.

Published by Sweet & Maxwell, March 2001.
Price £95 + VAT.

Working with Technology is a comprehensive treatment of the funding of the development of new technology and the subsequent management and commercialisation of the arising Intellectual Property in the United Kingdom. It is essential reading for all IP practitioners and will prove to be a valuable work of reference.

Jennifer Pierce and Iain Purvis, as well as distilling all of their expertise and authority into ten chapters, have assembled thirteen additional contributors, all acknowledged experts in their field.

The twenty-four chapters run to 500 pages, plus comprehensive tables of relevant cases and statutes, European and international legislation, and treaties and conventions. Together, with a CD containing statutory EC and Government material referred to in the main text, the book can be divided conveniently for the purpose of review into four sections.

The first, introduced by Jennifer Pierce with contributions from Dr. Paul Cunningham of Manchester University, Dr. Paul Castle of MTI Partners Ltd., and Graham Stroud, Research DG, European Commission, deals comprehensively with U.K. public sector, U.K. venture capital, and European Commission funding. It

includes explanations of the new approach embodied in the current 5th Framework Programme and is completed by perspectives from Dr. Roger Holdom of University College, London and James Evans of the University of Manchester for the universities and from Dr. Campbell Wilson of AstraZeneca for industry.

The second chapter gives a valuable, easily read treatment of patent law and the laws of confidence, trademarks and passing off by Iain Purvis, with patenting procedures and practice contributed by Derek Chandler, CPA, and the laws of copyright and designs by Dr. Uma Suthersanen, of Queen Mary, University of London.

Then follows guidance on the ownership of IP followed by expert introductions to EC & UK competition law by Mark Brealey and Kelyn Bacon of Brick Court Chambers, and US antitrust law by Michael L. Weiner of Skadden, Arps Slate Meagher & Flom.

Jennifer Pierce provides excellent guidance on R&D and licensing agreements and assignments, and Nicholas Thompsell's contribution, "Companies and Other Business Structures," will prove valuable to those involved with start-up companies and seeking the terms on which a venture capitalist might be prepared to invest.

Finally, when things go wrong, Nigel Jones, of Linklaters & Paines, provides guidance on the enforcement of IP rights and the remedies, litigation, arbitration and ADR procedures that should be considered.

Working with Technology will fully justify the authors' wishes that, in addition to the anticipated legal readership, the book will prove particularly helpful to non-lawyers grappling with the complexities of the many aspects of IP management. Oh, that it had been published ten years earlier!