

THE GLOBAL FELLOWS - BRIDGING THE IP GAP BETWEEN THE US, EUROPE, AND ASIA



The Federal Circuit Bar Association®, with support from the German Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property, is pleased to continue its Global Fellows Program. An extraordinary success, this series promotes a higher level of IP practice among future leaders in the global legal community. The Global Fellows Program brings together a small group for an intensive learning program involving leading judges and practitioners from both countries and other major jurisdictions across the globe. In an interactive learning environment, these emerging leaders will together focus on both policy issues and practical lessons on the operation of different patent systems across the globe, enhancing their ability to provide effective legal services to clients. The Global Fellows also develop professional relationships crossing international boundaries and legal cultures that we hope will endure throughout their legal careers.

The Fellows will convene for two sessions, scheduled first for **Washington, DC, from November 3-6, 2026**, and then in **Munich, Germany from March 9-12, 2027**.

The number of available spaces is limited to 24 with balanced participation from major jurisdictions across the globe. Applications for 2026-2027 Global Fellows are due by **September 15, 2026**. Early applications are encouraged in July, as early applicants may be notified of their acceptance by **August 15, 2026**. Hence, those who apply early will have a better opportunity for selection. An application form can be filled out [online here](#) through September 15. If you or your organization has an interest in participating, or wish to obtain more information on the Global Fellows, please contact Sharon Israel, Executive Director, FCBA, globalfellows@fedcirbar.org.

Program

The program has two sessions, one in Washington, DC and the other in Munich, Germany. The sessions are highly interactive so the participants gain maximum benefit from their contact with the faculty. The sessions discuss fundamentals of the US and European patent systems, but also go deeper through open, off the record discussions with judges and senior agency members.

The session in Washington is planned to comprise the following:

- Meet with senior US in-house counsel
- Meet with judges from US federal district courts and senior lawyers to discuss patent discovery / trial / advocacy
- Meet with senior staff of the US Patent and Trademark Office and at least one judge from the Patent Trial and Appeal Board
- Visit the US International Trade Commission and meet with attorneys, ITC General Counsel, and at least one administrative law judge and Commissioner
- Visit the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and meet with at least one Circuit Judge
- Visit the US Supreme Court

The session in Munich is planned to comprise the following:

- Meet with UPC judges and visit central and Munich local divisions
- Observe oral argument in an appeal at the European Patent Office and meet with at least one EPO judge
- Visit the Federal Patent Court and meet with at least one FPC judge
- Discuss the German patent infringement system with at least one of Germany's leading District Court judges
- Engage in panel discussions with some of Germany's leading litigators on various "hot topics" concerning EU patent law
- Participate in a Mock Trial with some of Europe's leading judges

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the subject matter of the program?

The program focuses on patent law and policy.

What is the cost?

The fee for the program will be \$3750 US. This single fee covers both sessions. If paying for each session individually, a \$500 processing fee will be added on. The payments are due no later than 30 days before the beginning of each session.

What is included in the price?

The price includes registration for all eight days of meetings, including course materials and some breakfast and mid-day lunch meals. Group dinners in Munich are also included. Participants are responsible for lodging expenses and non-provided meals. Convenient hotel recommendations will be provided. Travel to or from Washington, DC and Munich is not included.

How does one become a Fellow?

Applications for 2026-2027 Global Fellows are due by September 15, 2026. Early applications are encouraged, as early applicants may be notified of their acceptance by August 15, 2026. Fellows' slots are limited in number. Hence, those who apply early will have a better opportunity for selection. An application form can be filled out [online here](#).

Who should participate as a Global Fellow?

The program is intended for intellectual property lawyers, including patent attorneys, who have been in practice for 8-15 years, and who have achieved recognition within their own organizations as potential future leaders.

Is the program only for lawyers and patent attorneys in private practice?

No. The Global Fellows Program reflects the diversity of the legal profession and thus attorneys and patent attorneys in private practice, corporate legal departments, or other forms of employment are equally welcome. Please note however that the program is primarily aimed at full-time patent practitioners.

How many Global Fellows will there be?

One of the fundamental aspects of the program is to limit the number of participants both in order to maximize the quality of instruction and to foster connections that will last for many years. With this in mind, participation will be limited to a maximum of 24 Fellows.

Are all those who apply selected?

No. The Global Fellows organizing committee reviews all applications with the goal of building a group of highly competent attorneys who have different perspectives and are interested in engaging in collegial but spirited discussions. If a person is not selected this year, that does not mean the person would not be selected another year, including possibly next year.

Who will be on the faculty?

The faculty will be made up of present and former judges and patent office personnel, as well as preeminent IP practitioners.

What is the language of the program?

All proceedings will be conducted in English. Simultaneous English translations will be provided during EPO and Munich court proceedings.

Is there any preparation required in advance of the sessions?

A little. A package of background material will be provided before each session so that the Fellows have the appropriate context to understand the CAFC and EPO arguments they will observe. Participants will be expected to be familiar with these course materials.

Do participants have to attend both sessions?

Yes. Fellows are expected to attend all four days of both sessions in order to get maximum benefit from the program. If you are unable to attend one of the two sessions, a substitute will be accepted. If no substitute can be found, a refund for half of the program cost, minus a \$500 processing fee will be provided.

What organizations are involved?

The program has been created with voluntary assistance from the law firms DLA Piper LLP; Noerr LLP; Boehmert & Boehmert; Bardehle Pagenberg, Paul Hastings LLP, Kecker, Van Nest & Peters LLP; Meggle-Freund Gerhard Partnerschaft, and corporate stakeholder leadership from Ericsson, Apple, and Qualcomm Incorporated.

What is the FCBA?

The FCBA is an organization of attorneys who practice before the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. That court has the responsibility, among others, of creating a national body of jurisprudence in the United States in intellectual property law. The FCBA pursues a national and international dialogue to improve and facilitate the administration of justice and to advance professional excellence in matters related to the Circuit's jurisdiction.

Testimonials

"The program gave the participants a thorough understanding of the ways in which German patent law and patent litigation practice differs from US law and practice and an explanation of the efforts underway to use certain aspects of each to form a model for global patent rules and procedures."

"Great insights obtained into the prosecution and litigation of patents in Europe, particularly Germany. Plus great friendships and contacts made and reinforced."

