

POWER PROSECUTORS

The Firms That Prosecuted The Best Biotech Patents

Not all patents are created equal. That is the premise behind PatentRatings LLC, a Newport Beach, California, company.

The company—run by two young patent lawyers—aims to evaluate patents with a computer model. The model ranks the quality of patents based on the number and breadth of claims in a patent and the length of the specifications, (longer is better). Then they look at how often owners pay maintenance fees

on patents similar to the ones analyzed. The premise is that patent owners won't maintain less valuable patents.

The model kicks out an Intellectual Property Quotient (IPQ), which corresponds with a human IQ: 100 is an average score.

The ten firms that prosecuted the biotech patents with the highest IPQs between 1997 and 2001 are listed below.

| Rank | Firm | Patents 1997–2001 | % Biotech Patents | IPQ |
|------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| ▶ 1 | FITZPATRICK, CELLA | 290 | 3.4 | 125.6 |
| ▶ 2 | Woodcock, Washburn | 559 | 33.1 | 122.9 |
| ▶ 3 | Morrison & Foerster | 656 | 36.6 | 121.5 |
| ▶ 4 | Swanson & Bratschun | 157 | 81.4 | 121.0 |
| ▶ 5 | Sterne, Kessler | 477 | 37.9 | 120.6 |
| ▶ 6 | Lyon & Lyon | 542 | 22.9 | 120.5 |
| ▶ 7 | Lahive & Cockfield | 407 | 51.2 | 119.5 |
| ▶ 7 | Howrey Simon | 546 | 24.7 | 119.5 |
| ▶ 9 | Knobbe, Martens | 455 | 12.6 | 119.3 |
| ▶ 10 | Edwards & Angell | 209 | 14.5 | 118.8 |

SOURCE: PATENT RATINGS, LLC (WWW.PATENTRATINGS.COM)