

Tony Rollins

Tony is the current chair of the International Liaison Committee, former President of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys and a Patent Attorney Litigator with more than 30 years' experience of litigation. He is also active in promoting improvements to the patent system through domestic and international industry associations (IP Federation, the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, BusinessEurope, and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations). Tony has represented BusinessEurope in regular trilateral meetings (with the European Patent Office, the US Patent and Trade Mark Office and the Japan Patent Office) and in meetings of the IP5 (the five largest intellectual property offices in the world – EPO, USPTO, JPO, SIPO and KIPO) primarily concerned with harmonisation of patent practices between the offices. In addition, he is a member of the EPO Academy Academic Advisory Board and an observer on the Academy Supervisory Board. He also represents BusinessEurope in the EPO Partnership for Quality meetings and is a Vice President of AIPPI, UK (Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propriété Intellectuelle, UK). He is also the new President of the Global Network of National Associations IP Practitioners (GNIPA). Tony is interested in IP education, both in terms of IP professionals but also more widely in terms of the general public and particularly students. He is also interested in promoting more involvement in pro-bono activities by IP professionals both in the court system and more widely. He joined Beecham Group as a trainee after graduating with a PhD in carbohydrate chemistry from the University of Dundee in 1974. In 1976 he moved to The Wellcome Foundation working under George Szabo who became one of the original members of the EPO Board of Appeal. He qualified as a patent agent in 1978. Whilst there he handled a diverse range of patent and agreement work in the pharmaceutical, diagnostic, animal health, environmental health and hygiene areas, including litigation in many countries across the world. In 1995, he joined Amersham International plc where he headed up the patent group, ultimately becoming Vice President of Intellectual Property of Amersham plc. Amersham became part of GE Healthcare in 2004 and shortly thereafter he left to head up the European Patents group of MSD.