Teaching Students to Practice Intellectual Property
LL.M. and Certificate Programs
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I. The "big bang" in intellectual property-related LL.M. Programs *circa* 2000
- 5 IP LL.M. programs prior to 2000
- 20+ IP LL.M. programs by 2006
- Several general LL.M. programs with IP concentration
- After General and Tax LL.M.'s, IP LL.M. is most popular LL.M. offering (virtually tied with International/ Comparative Law)
- 15+ IP Certificate Programs

II. Who takes the LL.M. degree?
- International students
- Career switchers
- Resume enhancers
- Skill builders
- Budding academics
- IP geeks

III. Who earns a Certificate?
- Attempt to signal: "I like IP"

IV. What is the worth of an IP LL.M. or a Certificate?
- Traditional View
  - International students: graduate education
  - U.S. students: skepticism
- Current View
  - International students: still valuable graduate education
  - U.S. students: good education; hit or miss employment value
- Future View
  - Law becomes a doctoral level degree outside U.S. (e.g., Japan)
  - More international IP LL.M. offerings
  - IP LL.M. programs go on the road
  - Exchange programs
  - Value tied to U.S. leadership in IP?
  - More competition but more credibility?

V. Thoughts on LL.M. curriculum

Should LL.M. curriculum differ from J.D. curriculum?

Deeply theoretical, deeply practical

Teaching the IP core subjects

- Individual courses?
- Light survey?
- Intensive survey

Advanced theory

IP in relation to other laws (e.g., anti-trust; tax)

IP in relation to non-law disciplines (e.g., economics)

IP in industry (e.g., software; biotech)

IP in practice (licensing; litigation; prosecution; legislation)

- Clinics
- Externships