

IP protection survey ranks U.S., U.K., Germany the highest

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European law firm Taylor Wessing ranked 22 countries and economies on their intellectual property protection and enforcement records, with the United States, United Kingdom and Germany garnering the highest scores.

The firm's inaugural Global Intellectual Property Index (GIPI) released on May 2 used a statistical analysis to rank jurisdictions in terms of patent, trademarks and copyright protections. Taylor Wessing worked with Z/Yen Ltd. of London, which has developed other indices, to develop the index.

The rankings were based on responses to an online questionnaire and a range of factors affecting the intellectual property climate, including: the number of specialized intellectual property judges and lawyers relative to the population, the number of patent or trademark filings and the number of patents and trademarks granted and active.

The online survey tallied assessments of 9,333 patent jurisdictions from 341 CEOs, intellectual property lawyers, in-house counsel and law firm partners.

The index grouped jurisdictions into five tiers:

Tier 1: United Kingdom, U.S. and Germany

Tier 2: Netherlands, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore and France

Tier 3: Israel, Japan, Spain, South Africa and South Korea

Tier 4: Poland, Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, Italy and Mexico

Tier 5: India, Brazil, Russia and China

Taylor Wessing noted that seven of the nine jurisdictions in tiers 1 and

2 of the index have legal systems based on common law. Yet Germany and the Netherlands, which both have civil code legal systems, rank in the top five in the patent, trademark and copyright indices.

The firm also noted that the size of a jurisdiction measured by gross domestic product, has little impact on its intellectual property competitiveness rankings.

Companies operating globally need to safeguard their intellectual property in both developed and developing economies, and the firm hopes that the index

will provide useful data, said Taylor Wessing's managing partner and London attorney Michael Frawley.

"IP law is developing rapidly in order to meet the challenges of the ever-increasing change in technology and no jurisdiction can afford to be complacent about how its legal system accommodates these changes," Frawley said.

Taylor Wessing has about 750 lawyers and offices in Belgium, England, France, Germany, the United Arab Emirates and representative offices in Spain and Shanghai, China.