

CHIEF JUDGE MICHEL'S CURRENT AND FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS TO
IMPROVING U.S. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

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Chief Judge Paul R. Michel needs little introduction to those in the field of intellectual property law. To understand what has motivated him to work at such a fast pace to improve intellectual property rights since he retired from the court, however, it is useful to recall how he became acquainted with patent law. He was appointed as a Circuit Judge to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. In 2004, after sixteen years on the court, he assumed the duties of Chief Judge. During the twenty-two year period in which he served on the court, he judged several thousand appeals and wrote more than 800 opinions. Many of those opinions dealt with complex issues of patent law and the inventors and companies that create cutting-edge technologies for the benefit of the U.S. economy. Working on those cases gave Judge Michel a first-hand look at the importance of innovation in maintaining the country's economic competitiveness. He became a true believer in the power of innovation.

Judge Michel also broadened his experience by teaching at The John Marshall Law School, George Washington University School of Law and other law schools, and also made presentations to various city, state, national and international bar associations in the area of intellectual property law. He also participated in the training of judges of other nations. Furthermore, alongside two coauthors, Judge Michel helped produce a casebook for law students, entitled, *Modern Patent Litigation and Strategy*. He has also published numerous articles on appellate advocacy.

Before his appointment to the bench, he served in positions where government policies were formulated. In 1978, he was appointed as Associate Deputy Attorney General and helped to supervise U.S. Attorneys, the FBI, and the Marshals Service. From April 1981 until his appointment to the Federal Circuit in March 1988, he served on former U.S. Senator Arlen Specter's staff, including the role of Chief of Staff. This background gave him clear vision of how the levers of power can be pulled to improve the climate for innovation in this country.

Upon his retirement, Chief Judge Michel announced his intention to share the knowledge he gained during his years in public life by speaking out on issues related to the courts and the patent system. He has undertaken a heavy load of speaking engagements and travel with many diverse groups interested in the patent system and the administration of justice.

The Intellectual Property Owners Education Foundation was fortunate in July 2010 to have Chief Judge Michel agree to serve as its first Distinguished Scholar in Residence, along with his other public interest activities. He was also elected to the Board of Directors of the Foundation. The IPO Education Foundation, a non-profit subsidiary of Intellectual Property Owners Association, was established in Washington, D.C., in 2005 to educate the public on the importance of intellectual

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property rights to the economy. As a Distinguished Scholar in Residence, the Chief Judge is actively promoting the goals of the Foundation. Separately from his public speaking and his affiliation with the Foundation, he is also providing mediation, arbitration, and case evaluation services to private clients. These are just a glimpse in the ways he is using his vast experience with patents and innovation.

Everyone who has met Chief Judge Michel during his judicial tenure and more recently has been impressed with his very strong commitment to the intellectual property system. He continues to speak out vigorously, for example, on the need for adequate funding for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the need for reform and international harmonization of patent law, and the need to reduce litigation costs. He is a compelling and authoritative voice and his devotion to public service and encouragement of innovation are for the long term.

We can count on Chief Judge Michel for years to come to be one of the leading champions of effective and affordable intellectual property rights in the United States.