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. . . and then there was light

Last quarter's MIPLG Newsletter described the start-up phase of MIPLG – "In The Beginning . . ." . Since then, our original space has been expanded to 4200 sq. ft. to fit our 13 employees and 2 contractors. New carpet was installed and the space painted. New attorney and staff furniture arrived to replace the cardboard boxes some of us had been using for work surfaces. The kitchen was completed and the appliances installed. In the end, a fine looking, functional workspace has been created.



Also, during the fourth quarter, our new website was launched. It contains information about our practice, our services and our attorneys. It also has a link to past Newsletters to keep you abreast of all the happenings at MIPLG.

The Open House To celebrate the firm's founding and the new space, in December, MIPLG invited its employees, their families, friends, local clients, and our new neighbors in the building to a holiday open house in the office space. Although the snow that fell overnight and into the morning kept some invitees home, those that attended the party had a great time. Happily, we found the stain resistant carpet to be truly stain resistant when two glasses of red wine were spilled on the new carpet. One of the wine spills was from Ray Moser's glass as he was excitedly describing his view of the future of MIPLG.

Back to Work During the last quarter of the year, MIPLG saw exceptional growth in its business. There has been substantial interest in the Virtual In House IP CounselSM (described in last quarter's Newsletter) and substantial growth in the number of new clients. The focus of MIPLG on start-up through medium sized companies has attracted a number of new clients that appreciate the friendly, hands-on relationship provided by MIPLG.

Another New Service from MIPLG

One of our goals at MIPLG is to provide our clients with cutting

edge IP-related services. Following on the success of our Virtual In-House IP CounselSM service, we now offer another unique service – Patent Drafting using Offshore Talent.

At the request of any client, MIPLG can outsource drafting of patent applications and other IP-related services to our team in India at a fraction of our usual charges. The service uses skilled technical writers (many with advanced degrees) to draft applications that are reviewed and edited by MIPLG attorneys. The final product is a patent application that is indistinguishable from the high quality product typically prepared by MIPLG attorneys. However, the cost of preparing the application is substantially reduced from our customary charge.

Recruiting

MIPLG is always looking for highly motivated staff and patent practitioners. If you are self-motivated and want to join a cutting edge IP practice, send us a resume'.

Our staff works a 35 hour work week, 9-5pm. MIPLG pays for ALL benefits. Employees are not expected to pay any of the premiums on their benefits – medical, dental, life insurance (coming in 2006) or disability insurance (coming in 2006). We also offer a 401(k) with profit sharing and competitive salaries.

For our patent practitioners (attorneys and patent agents), in addition to the benefits described above, there is no hours requirement as used in many "large" law firms.

Additionally, our practitioners' training includes, not only learning the art of being an IP practitioner, but also understanding the business aspects of a law firm. The job of MIPLG management of MIPLG is to train "complete" lawyers – those that can practice on their own and successfully operate a law practice. MIPLG views starting and operating a law firm as the highest achievement of any attorney.

New Additions to MIPLG In the fourth quarter of 2005, Julian Santos, a patent attorney with a Electrical Engineering background, joined the firm. Julian became an attorney in 2001 and had been practicing at McDonnell, Boehnen, Hulbert and Berghoff LLP in Chicago until joining MIPLG. Julian has been supporting our telecommunications and enterprise software clients.

In addition, Jazmine Lumanlan has been promoted to the docketing coordinator position at MIPLG. Jazmine had been working in a temporary capacity for three months. After showing an attention to detail and her understanding of MIPLG docketing practices, when her contract expired, MIPLG hired her as a full-time staff member.

Renee Kelly joined the firm as our receptionist. Renee has quickly grasped the intricacies of the MIPLG VoIP phone system.

We have also contracted with both Linda LaForge and Ruth Wiggins to provide paralegal services to MIPLG. These two ladies bring substantial experience to fulfill our paralegal needs.