

Teaching IP to International Students: Early career teaching experience

European Intellectual Property Teachers' Network Workshop
20-21 July 2009
Queen Mary University of London

Dr Agnieszka A. Machnicka
Università di Siena

University of Warsaw



Faculty of Law and Administration

- Undergraduate level: *facultative module*
 - Copyright law
 - Intellectual Property law
 - Trademark law
 - Crimes against property and intellectual property
 - Harmonisation of copyright law in the EU
- Postgraduate level
 - Post-graduate studies in Intellectual Property Law
 - Post-graduate studies in Industrial Property Law
- Schools of foreign law
 - Centre for the Study of English and European Law
 - Centre for French and European Law
 - Centre for Italian and European Law

Università di Siena



Facoltà di Giurisprudenza

- Facultative courses within the 2 year graduate specialisation program (Laurea Specialistica):
 - Industrial property law (*Diritto industriale*, 40h)
 - Law of trademarks and other distinctive signs (*Diritto dei segni distintivi dell'impresa*, 20h)

Universidad de Alcalá



Facultad de Derecho

- IP courses offered within:
 - law degree (Licenciado en Derecho)
 - Master Oficial en Derecho (Escuela de Postgrado)
 - Master en Derecho de la Empresa

Observed features of IP curricula

- Growing importance of IP courses
- Introduction to law schools' programs of more modules covering different aspects of IP
- Introduction to postgraduate (business/ commercial) law programs of a compulsory IP course
- Creation of postgraduate IP programs

Student audience

- Students attending an undergraduate law school program v. Postgraduate students
- National students v. International audience

International law student audience – Where?

- academic institutions created as international *per se*
- national universities offering international programs

Specific requirements of an international student audience

- Preparation of the course program
- Selection of the materials
- Teaching methods, e.g.
 - need to familiarize non-EU students with the European legal system
 - the role of case study
 - encouraging of students' interventions

IP as a domain of an international dimension

- International conventions
- International registration systems
- Harmonisation and unification within the European Union
- Particular importance of interdisciplinary considerations within the IP

Trademark law

- ‘What is a trademark?’
- A way from intuitive perception to a structured legal system and reasoning
- Comparative legal method (references to particularities or concepts present in national legal systems, *e.g.* passing off)
- References to practical aspects (*e.g.* how to search in trademark registers)
- Trademarks as an element of a broader market scene
- Interdisciplinary considerations