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ANNUAL REPORT

Overview
 

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## Chief Executive's Message

The art of the Chief Executive's summary in the Annual Report is to capture the highlights and, where appropriate, the lowlights of the membership year in an engaging and informative way. In many ways, it is the art of the storyteller, making the complexities and challenges we face as a professional membership association come alive. And what a story CIPA has to tell.

Lee Davies  
Chief Executive



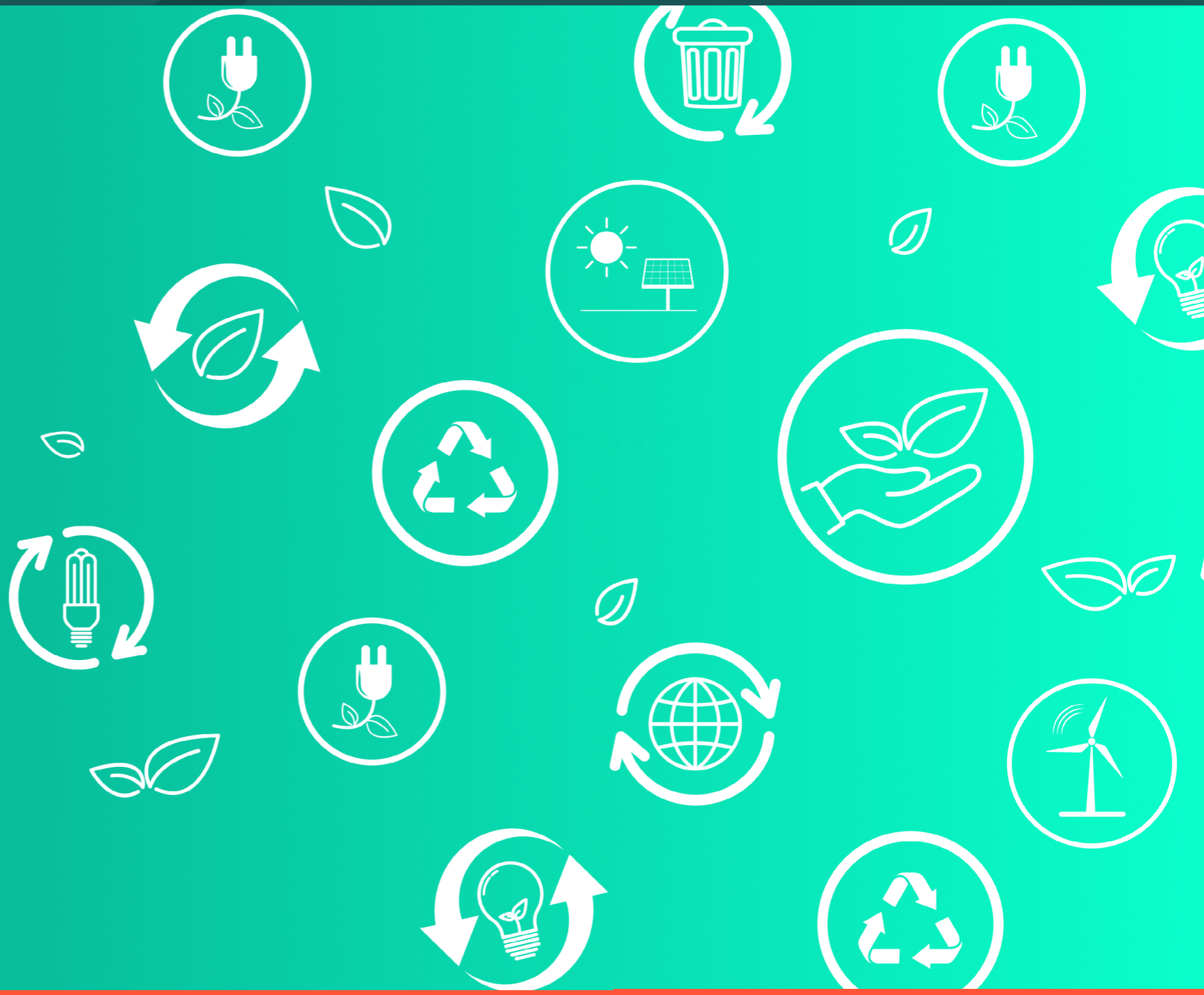
# THE EARTHSHOT PRIZE

## The Earthshot Prize

CIPA plays "integral" role in Prince William's Earthshot Prize

## Sustainability committee

Founded by Royal Charter, CIPA has a number of key objectives.



# 2022

## Conferences

Summary of 2022

## Chief Executive's message



The art of the Chief Executive's summary in the Annual Report is to capture the highlights and, where appropriate, the lowlights of the membership year in an engaging and informative way. In many ways, it is the art of the storyteller, making the complexities and challenges we face as a professional membership association come alive. And what a story CIPA has to tell.

On a personal level, it was fantastic to be back on the road (or rail track), meeting members and telling that story at regional events and conferences. The experience seemed somewhat heightened as a result of the pandemic, with a buzzing atmosphere as we return to meetings and events in person. At times, it is a politically sensitive story to tell, somewhat easier to tell in person than to put in writing. I will try to reflect on the CIPA year here but, for reasons of confidentiality and sensitivity, my reflections will be somewhat abridged. Still, I hope you get a flavour of what we have been up to.

The year was very much framed by the emergence from the pandemic and a return to meeting people face-to-face. We learned a lot about working remotely during that long period of enforced separation and I hope we have been able to retain the best elements of the new whilst accommodating working in the office and meeting in person. We have become more flexible and adaptable, and I sense a collective will to make improvements in the ways we work together. This is particularly important from a sustainability perspective, and I hope CIPA's new Sustainability Committee will lead on this.

It was a year for new committees, with the formation of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the European Liaison Committee. The D&I Committee will help CIPA build on the successes we have had in partnership with IP Inclusive and to focus on how we ensure the patent attorney profession attracts the very best people, regardless of difference. The European Liaison Committee fills an important gap in CIPA's policy and public affairs work, created when the UK left the European Union.

Sticking with things European, much of CIPA's work in 2022 was focussed on the imminent launch of the Unified Patent Court (UPC). I say imminent, there were a number of false starts. At the time of writing the launch remains imminent, in June 2022. To help members prepare, CIPA put on a series of webinars with high-profile speakers sharing their knowledge and expertise. Much like the work we did on visa-free access to the seats of the EPO in 2020, in relation to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) between the EU and the UK, we have been working with colleagues in the UKIPO, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to ensure UK patent attorneys can exercise their right to access the UPC.

Having left the EU, the UK was free to seek bilateral trade agreements, and CIPA positioned itself to be a trusted friend of government on the IP chapters of those agreements. The IP Commercialisation Committee led in responding to government consultations on the concluded trade agreements with Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, and the ongoing trade negotiations covering Israel, India, Mexico, Canada and the Gulf Cooperation Council. A trade agreement with the US remains somewhat over the horizon. CIPA's participation in these discussions is covered by a non-disclosure agreement, meaning we cannot be as open with our members about this important work.

Bilateral agreements are relatively straightforward, with two countries giving and taking concessions built around a largely blank framework. Joining an existing trade bloc is more difficult, as the rules of trade are established and the joining country has less room to manoeuvre. This meant that CIPA's risk radar was buzzing when, in February 2021, the government announced its intention to apply to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a trade partnership comprising Australia, Brunei, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam, with Chile soon to ratify its membership.

We quickly identified that the IP chapter of the CPTPP included elements that were potentially inconsistent with the European Patent Convention (EPC), most notably the requirement to introduce a grace period. We wanted to make sure that the government was aware of the issue and that the negotiations would respect the UK's existing international obligations and find a way to join the CPTPP which would mitigate the risks of any potential inconsistencies.

The CPTPP negotiations began in September 2021 and are expected to conclude by the summer of 2023. We have met with government ministers, lead civil servants, MPs and peers from all parties to raise awareness of the importance of the EPC to the UK's global trade agenda and, of course, for UK businesses. This is not a political issue. CIPA supports the government's ambitions for international trade but we want to see these achieved in a way which complements our membership of the EPC. We have also met with our partner representative institutes in CPTPP member countries.

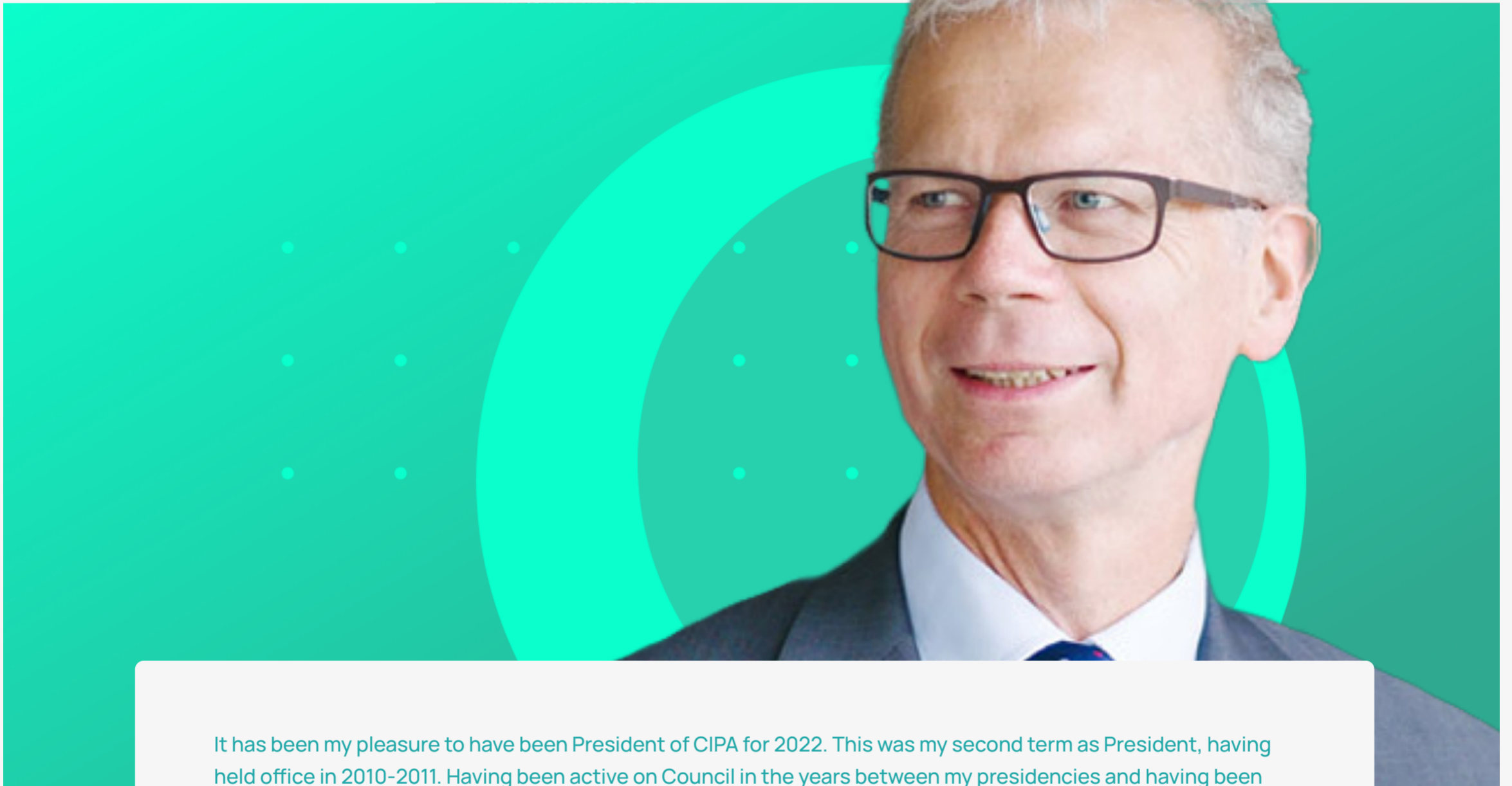
As I referenced earlier, 2022 saw the return of in-person regional meetings and conferences. Sadly, CIPA Congress had cancelled due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We offered our deepest condolences to His Majesty King Charles III and the Royal Family. We were able to host our annual IP Paralegal Conference and Life Sciences Conference as planned, and it was brilliant to see so many members able to network once more after the pandemic. We also celebrated our 500th IP Paralegal member joining towards the end of 2022, as this vibrant community continues to go from strength to strength.

All this would not be possible were it not for the tremendous amount of time our members give voluntarily to CIPA, from writing articles for the Journal, through speaking at webinars and events, to representing members on committees and in Council. We also have gifted and talented people working at CIPA, who support and complement the work of our members. CIPA's achievements are your achievements.



**Lee Davies**  
Chief Executive

## Outgoing President



It has been my pleasure to have been President of CIPA for 2022. This was my second term as President, having held office in 2010-2011. Having been active on Council in the years between my presidencies and having been editor of the Journal and Chair of the Trade Marks Committee, it is fascinating to observe just how much CIPA has changed.

My presidency was marked by the gradual emergence from the pandemic and a return to something approaching normality. The world, of course, looks different. CIPA Council has embraced technology and our meetings are now fully hybrid. We learned through being stuck in our homes as Covid struck that we could work successfully remotely, and retaining participation through videoconferencing enables Council to be more inclusive. The same can be seen in the way that committees now work.

On the policy front, our work has been focussed on continuing to deal with the consequences of the UK leaving the EU and making its own way in the world of international trade. I want to record my thanks for the work of the IP Commercialisation Committee, led by Catriona Hammer. The Committee has made fantastic contributions to the government's consultations on trade agreements with Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, and continues to monitor ongoing discussions with Israel, India, Mexico, Canada and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

By far the most important work has been on the UK's proposed accession to the CPTPP and ensuring that the government observes and protects our existing obligations under the EPC. Again, thanks go to Catriona Hammer for leading this work, ably supported by past President of CIPA Alicia Instone, our Chief Executive Lee Davies, and our Deputy Chief Executive Neil Lampert. Council regularly received updates on meetings with MPs, peers, Ministers and our partner professional associations in CPTPP member states. It has been an extraordinary effort. At the time of writing, it is too early to know if we have achieved our intended outcomes, but members can be assured that we could not have done more.

The return of our international liaison work was a welcome feature of my presidency. It was a real pleasure to attend a roundtable with our colleagues in the All-China Patent Attorneys Association (ACPAA), provide a webcast to the conference of the Korean Patent Attorneys Association (KPAA) and host the American Intellectual Property Lawyers Association (AIPLA). I was delighted to be able to attend the conference of the Asian Patent Attorneys Association (APAA) and connect with colleagues from the Association of Singapore Patent Attorneys (ASPA), the Japanese Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA), the Taiwan Patent Attorney Association (TWPAA), and KPAA. I was also pleased to discuss the UPC at the British Council in Singapore and attend the annual meeting of the International Trademark Association (INTA).

At home, it was great to have the opportunity to catch up with CIPA members at the Merseyside, Midlands, Scotland and Manchester regional meetings. Whilst the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II meant the cancellation of CIPA Congress, the return of in-person conferences was a great success and I was very pleased to be able to attend the Life Sciences Conference and the IP Paralegal Conference and Dinner.

Thank you for having me as your President. It has been an honour and I wish Daniel Chew, the President for 2023, every success in his year in office, supported by Vice-President Matt Dixon.

# UPC support

This year CIPA renewed its efforts to prepare members and international partners for the arrival of the Unitary Patent and the Unitary Patent Court. As the sunrise period was initially due to begin in September 2022 it was important for CIPA to provide as much information as possible about the upcoming changes.

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With the help of resident UP and UPC experts CIPA produced a number of useful resources available for both members and non-members. This includes 10 webinars on various aspects of the UP and UPC, full guides providing advice on procedures, opt-outs, applications and existing patents; and a special Two IPs in a Pod episode with Leythem Wall and Caelia Bryn-Jacobsen.

In addition to this the ILC committee produced webinars for overseas partners, including a webinar for the Japan Patent Attorneys Association which had over 200 attendees and for the Intellectual Property Owners Association in the US which was attended by several high profile companies in the US. In addition to this Vicki Salmon represented the CIPA on a UPC panel during the AIPLA 2022 Annual Conference and promoted UK Patent Attorney litigation rights. During overseas trips the committee also used this as an opportunity to discuss how the UK can continue to support overseas clients once the changes have been implemented.

Furthermore, CIPA is also working to raise awareness on issues surrounding UK patent attorneys rights to representation. The Comms Team have produced a short video animation that will be available in English, Chinese, Japanese and Korean. The video highlights how UK attorneys will continue to have rights to representation once the court has officially opened.

CIPA released a fourth edition of the European Unitary Patent and Unified Patent Court by Hugh Dunlop (Fellow) in 2022. The updated book includes a brief commentary on the structure, the legislation, and the draft Rules of the Rules of Procedure of the Court (as adopted by the Administrative Committee on 8 July 2022). Simple charts guide the reader through the procedures. The Regulations, Agreement and draft Rules are set out in their entirety and indexed, to provide a complete reference source. New chapters set out the provisions for whether lawyers and patent attorneys will qualify as representatives before the new Court, and discussing the pros and cons of the system. Order your copy here: <https://www.cipa.org.uk/product/european-unitary-patent-and-unified-patent-court/>

Awareness about the changes is important and in addition to this CIPA is also working with the Ministry of Justice on mobility issues to ensuring that our members have access to the seats of the UPC and we will continue this work into 2023.

# Oral proceedings by VICO



One of the most significant changes to policy at the European Patent Office in recent years has been the switch from in-person hearings, mostly held in Munich and the Hague, to video conferencing.

On 22 November EPO President António Campinos announced that video conference (VICO) would become the default format of oral proceedings in opposition from 1 January 2023.

President Alasdair Poore welcomed the news, saying: 'This is an important step forward for access to justice and also supports the drive to make the legal system more sustainable.'

'CIPA invested significantly in helping its members develop world-leading skills to provide clients with the highest quality representation through videoconferencing. We look forward to continuing to work with colleagues at the EPO to enhance videoconferencing and hope that the Boards of Appeal will use the technology wherever they can.'

CIPA has strongly supported the EPO in its use of the technology from the outset, pointing out its multitude of benefits: greater transparency; reduced environmental impact; lower costs and access to all regardless of location, mobility and personal circumstance.

President Campinos's announcement followed the publication, on 15 November, of the EPO's final report into oral proceedings by video conference, in which more than three-quarters of users supported the use of the technology.

The EPO said that the switch from in-person to virtual hearings had achieved significant environmental benefits, making a "conservative estimate" of over 1,000 tonnes of CO2 carbon emissions saved in 2021.

The EPO introduced a VICO pilot at the start of the pandemic and, in April 2022, extended the pilot to 31 December. The EPO's final report included details of a user survey which found that 77% supported continued use of the technology describing it as "good" or "very good", with just 10% describing it as "poor" or worse.

The report also stated that:

Provision of new digital tools in Zoom had made it even more effective for parties to argue their cases

The availability of skilled interpreters had increased thanks to remote access

Many parties welcomed the savings in time, cost and carbon emissions resulting from not having to travel

## Russian sanctions



Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the UK government announced a package of sanctions which include freezing assets from Russia's major banks and some export markets. Throughout 2022, CIPA has worked with the Government and Civil Service to provide members with up-to-date advice on how to comply with the sanctions and clarify any areas of confusion. Throughout the year CIPA has posted updates on the sanctions, and ensured any member queries have been addressed. As the conflict continues CIPA will continue to monitor the UK Government's response to the situation in Ukraine and will liaise with contacts in the UK Intellectual Property Office, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Department for International Trade to ensure our members receive up to date information on sanctions.

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Our thoughts remain with all of those affected by the ongoing conflict and, in particular, with our friends and colleagues in the National Association of Patent Attorneys of Ukraine (NAPA). Council has written to NAPA to convey solidarity with Ukraine, with NAPA and all Ukrainian IP professionals. We have also offered to help rebuild the intellectual property system in Ukraine when the time is right.

CIPA was delighted to see a number of our members sign up for the Homes for Ukraine programme and was pleased to connect Ukrainian families with our members. We are greatly appreciative of their generosity.



## Paralegal growth and support



Throughout the year the IP Paralegals committee, lead by Julia Tribe, continued to meet regularly via Zoom to discussed improving services for members. At the end of December, Julia stepped down as Committee chair after several years in the role.

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Taking over from Julia in 2023 is Annemarie Parsons. Annemarie is a highly experienced Patent Paralegal with a wealth of experience in the training and development of Paralegal staff.

CIPA held a series of webinars on the UPC in 2022, which included a webinar specifically for paralegals entitled The Practicalities of the UP for Paralegals. The webinar explored the practical aspects of the tasks that paralegals are likely to be involved with in relation to the Unitary Patent, including when and how to file a request for a Unitary Patent and how this will be recorded on the EP register.

The IP Paralegal Conference returned for an in-person event (the first since the pandemic) at the Kimpton Fitzroy in October with over 170 attendees. We received positive feedback on the event with delegates celebrating the return to the in-person conference and praising CIPA's Chief Executive Lee Davies for chairing the event.

The year ended on a high as the Paralegal membership reached over 500 members in December.

## CPTPP and FTAs



**We fully support the UK's global trade ambitions and welcome trade agreements that strengthen the UK's position as a world leader in innovation and intellectual property.**

Throughout 2022 the UK Government continued to negotiate its accession to the £8trillion Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) – a free trade agreement among Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

We were concerned that certain intellectual property provisions of the CPTPP could be inconsistent with those of the European Patent Convention (EPC), particularly those relating to a grace period. (A grace period is a period of time prior to the filing or priority date of a patent application, during which an inventor can disclose his invention without this destroying the novelty of his invention for patenting purposes.)

We had been flagging this to Ministers and senior civil servants for more than a year, explaining the importance of the EPC not just to the UK patent profession, but to the wider economy and our international allies. During the year it became ever more clear that our message had been heard.

This subject cropped up twice in Parliament on the same day in January. The Government's commitment to remaining in the EPC was expressed in extremely robust language in its response to the House of Lords' International Agreements Committee report on the UK's accession to the CPTPP:

It stated: **"We have heard very clear feedback from stakeholders that the UK's alignment with the European Patent Convention (EPC) is vital to both applicants and the patent attorney profession. We also believe that there are clear benefits for CPTPP members in securing a trade agreement with the UK which allows continued access to patent protection in the UK and 37 other EPC members via the European Patent Organisation (EPO)."**

# The Earthshot Prize



CIPA once again took part in Prince William's Earthshot Prize in 2022. As well as assisting behind the scenes with the IP due diligence process as last year, we were also lucky enough to be made an Official Nominator, able to put forward entrants from the client base of our members.

In early 2022, we submitted 24 remarkable solutions for The Earthshot Prize. In total over 1,000 nominations were submitted by 350 Official Nominators from around the world, with 15 finalists chosen through a rigorous 10-month selection process. Three of the 15 finalists were nominated by CIPA:

- Notpla** (Build a waste-free world category winner)
- Low Carbon Materials** (Fix our climate category finalist)
- Lanzatech** (Fix our climate finalist)

Notpla, one of CIPA's three nominated finalists, won the £1m Earthshot Prize in the 'Build a waste-free world' category.



The five Earthshot winners were announced at a spectacular ceremony in Boston on 2 December. The Earthshot categories are 'Build a waste-free world', 'Fix our climate', 'Protect and restore nature', 'Clean our air' and 'Revive our oceans'. Each of the winners received £1million and access to a global network of professional and technical support to scale and roll out their innovations to repair the planet. The Earthshot Prize, the most prestigious environmental awards in history, was founded by Prince William's Royal Foundation in 2020.

London-based Notpla Limited has produced a revolutionary solution to replace single-use plastics and packaging. The patented innovation uses a material that is made from seaweed and is 100% home compostable, formulated to break down like a piece of fruit peel. Notpla aims to save millions of tonnes of plastic products from polluting our oceans, littering our streets, and going to landfill every year.

All our finalists demonstrate the importance of protecting intellectual property early in the development process and show how patented innovation is addressing the world's most pressing environmental problems to offer a greener, more hopeful future for the planet.

As well as being an Official Nominator, CIPA plays an integral role behind the scenes on the IP due diligence process. A team of volunteer Chartered Patent Attorneys works with the Earthshot team to identify any issues that shortlisted finalists may have relating to intellectual property. We also offer IP advice and support to the finalists.

We look forward to working with The Earthshot Prize again in 2023.



Fellowship Director at The Earthshot Prize said: "CIPA continued to play a significant part in the success of The Earthshot Prize in 2022."

"As well as assisting our due diligence process, checking nominations against a set of intellectual property criteria, the institute became one of our Official Nominators. CIPA submitted an impressive set of innovations, including two eventual finalists and one winner."

"Thank you CIPA for embracing The Earthshot Prize so wholeheartedly and being an important partner in our efforts to restore the planet."

**Chris Large**  
Fellowship Director, The Earthshot Prize

## Two IPs in a Pod



Throughout 2022, CIPA's podcast Two IPs in a Pod went from strength to strength. Throughout the year we published 16 episodes and welcomed 34 guests onto the pod to talk about a variety of topics. Two IPs has grown in its popularity this year and has reached nearly 30,000 downloads on the Buzzsprout platform with around 1000 regular streamers across other listening platforms. We were also thrilled to see that the podcast has been listened to in 60 countries and has reached the top 25% of all podcasts across the Buzzsprout platform.

The most popular episode of the pod was the highly informative interview with Caelia Bryn-Jacobsen and Leythem Wall on all things Unitary Patent and Unified Patent Court. The episode took a deep dive into the upcoming changes, what these mean for UK based attorneys and how they can continue to be involved with filing in Europe.

Other popular episodes this year have included IP and Games with Queen Marys Gaetano Dimita, IP Litigation with Akash Sachdeva and IP and the Innovation Response to COVID with Jennifer Brant and Mark Schultz.

2022 also saw the return of the Pubcast! Lee, Gwilym and the podcast team recorded 3 episodes at Ye Olde Mitre in Holborn. First up on the Pubcast were lecturers from Queen Mary, Duncan Matthews and Noam Shemtov. In a jam-packed episode, Noam and Duncan spoke about AI and IP, how the academic side of IP effects policy, the TRIPPS waiver and more. Next on the Pubcast was patent attorney Iain Russell and music copyright specialist Nick Kounoupas. Together they discussed musical inventions, high-profile music copyright claims and how IP has changed the music industry. For the final episode, Lee and Gwilym were CIPA Officers and The Informals. In the last of our epic five-hour recording session, Lee and Gwilym were joined by CIPA President Alasdair Poore, Vice-President Daniel Chew, Immediate Past President Alicia Instone and Lindsay Pike, Elliot Krishek and Ellie Lee Chiarella from the CIPA Informals.

# International liaison



2022 saw the welcome return of in-person travel for the International Liaison Committee. In June we welcomed members of the European Group from AIPLA. The visit included a Diversity and Inclusion Breakfast meeting, held at Gray's Inn in partnership with IP Inclusive which featured a panel session on Allyship moderated by Marianne Privett, Co-Lead of IP Ability. Panellists were CIPA Chief Executive Lee Davies, AIPLA Vice-President Ann Mueting, Tum Thatch (AIPLA) and Saiful Khan, representing CIPA Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The meeting was a great opportunity to highlight CIPA's commitment to EDI and reflect on what we can all do to stand beside and help others in less well-represented groups.

After the breakfast AIPLA and ILC delegates held a roundtable in the CIPA office alongside representatives from CITMA. They discussed a range of pressing topics for the UK and USA, including amendments to the descriptions, 103 rejections before the PTAB, IP in trade deal negotiations and the post-Brexit landscape for trademarks in the UK. In the afternoon AIPLA and ILC members provided updates of interest to both UK and American professions. ILC members presented on: Enlarged Board of Appeal activity presented by Nick Noble; update on design protection in the UK presented by USA Working Group Lead Clare Cornell; and UP and UPC updates presented by Howard Read. AIPLA delegate Enrica Bruno spoke on Excluded subject-matter and Ann Mueting & Angelica Andreoli gave an update on Federal Circuit case law.

The following week KPAA President Jang-Won Hong and Vice-President (International Affairs) Young-Jin Heo visited London with a journalist from Korea Economic Daily on a patent litigation fact-finding trip. KPAA are lobbying the new South Korean government on a proposal to reform the country's patent litigation process to enable patent attorneys to represent parties in patent infringement cases. KPAA considers the UK patent litigation system a model of best practice and met judges, the IPO and an IPEC litigation expert to learn more and consider what features might possibly be replicated in Korea.

CIPA President Alasdair Poore, International Liaison Committee (ILC) Chair Tony Rollins and ILC's South Korea working group lead David Grainger met with Mr Hong and Mr Heo. The group attended meetings organised by CIPA with Lord Justice Birss, HH Judge Hacon, IPO's Interim Chief Executive and former Head of International Affairs Adam Williams and litigation expert Geoff Stewart of Stobbs IA Management. They discussed the history of UK patent litigation, the creation and role of IPEC, how businesses benefit from representation by patent attorneys and the wider UK IP infrastructure. CIPA has an excellent long-standing relationship with KPAA and we were delighted to be able to assist our Korean partners in collecting knowledge to support IP innovation in South Korea.

In addition to welcoming incoming delegations ILC made its first overseas trips since the start of the pandemic. In September, ILC partnered with the Intellectual Property Owners (IPO) Association at their annual conference in LA to promote UK rights of representation at the Unified Patent Court and present updates on other hot topics. CIPA's speakers included Peter Thornily David Hammond and Dick Waddington. The session was chaired by Daniel Chew.

Also in September Tony Rollins and Saiful Khan met with the JPAA executive during the AIPPI conference in San Francisco.

In October, CIPA President Alasdair Poore attended the APAA conference in Busan South Korea. During the visit, President Poore and other members of the CIPA delegation met with representatives from a number of partner institutes including, KPAA, JPAA, TWPA and ASPA.

Also in October, ILC Chair Tony Rollins and Vice President Daniel Chew attended the AIPLA conference in Maryland, USA, alongside USA working group lead Clare Cornell and Vicki Salmon. The delegates met with the AIPLA executive where Daniel outlined his plans for his presidency and discussed DSI, education and sustainability. Vicki also represented CIPA on a UPC panel during the AIPLA conference.

## Virtual Events

In addition to the in-person events, the ILC continued its program of virtual events. In April the China working group held its first roundtable with the ACPAA which included presentations on the UP and UPC and updates on videoconferencing at the EPO by Caella Bryn-Jacobsen and Gwilym Roberts. The event also featured talks from ACPAA on early resolution mechanisms for drug patent disputes in China and patent eligibility of AI in China.

This year it has been important for ILC to promote the UK's continued involvement with the Unitary Patent and the Unified Patent Court as the UK will continue to have rights of representation before the UPC. In May, ILC hosted a webinar with the Intellectual Property Owners (IPO) for their members on the UP and UPC with IPO's European Practice Group. The webinar was well received by IPO's members and CIPA's speakers, Leythem Wall and Caella Bryn-Jacobsen effectively demonstrated how UK attorneys can continue to be involved with the UP and UPC.

In September the Japan Working Group held a webinar for the Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA) members on the Sunrise Period for the Unitary Patent Court (UPC). The aim of the talk was to inform JPAA members on the upcoming changes, how they can prepare for the opening of the court, and how the UK will continue to be involved. The talk was delivered by Japan Working Group Lead, Darren Smyth, Deputy Lead, Kei Enomoto and members, Eleanor Maciver, Nic Jones, Howard Read and James Pitchford. They were also joined by Belinda Gascoyne of IBM and James Hogan of Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp for a discussion session on whether to opt out from using the European Unitary Patent. The session was attended by 200 of JPAA's members and was a great opportunity to inform our overseas partners of important developments to the UK and European professions.

## Plans for 2023

In 2023 the committee hopes to visit North America again and hold another networking event with US and Canadian attorneys. As the sunrise period of the UPC begins, the committee is also looking to hold more virtual events with overseas partners to continue promoting the UK profession and our continued work in Europe.



"CIPA and KPAA have been in a great relationship for more than 24 years. We have held annual meetings every year, alternatingly in the UK and in Korea, where we have shared valuable insight and information regarding latest intellectual property trends in the two countries. In 2022, we have met each other more than usual in London and in Busan for the mutual development of both associations. In particular, we would like to express our gratitude for CIPA's great efforts regarding the development of IP policies in Korea. It was a valuable experience to have a meeting with the Patent Court, IPEC and IPO in London in this July. We learned a lot about how UK/European patent attorneys have obtained the representation right in patent infringement cases. Also, the 2022 APAA Meeting in Busan was a good opportunity to strengthen the already-friendly relationship between the two associations. I hope that this partnership will continue and CIPA and KPAA lead the future together."

**Jangwon Hong**  
President, Korea Patent Attorney Association



"We had an excellent in-person meeting with our colleagues at CIPA and CITMA, in London, last June. After almost two and a half years of COVID lock-down, preventing us from holding in person meetings, we were able to reconnect with our colleagues, at their London office. We had a well-attended, wide-ranging discussion on multiple topics affecting our respective IP systems. It was great to renew personal acquaintances, share views on important issues, and enjoy a meal together. Thank you to our colleagues at CIPA and CITMA for your warmth and hospitality. We look forward to our continued collaboration to improve the IP system for all stakeholders."

**Patrick Coyne**  
President, American Intellectual Property Law Association

## European Liaison Committee



In August CIPA launched a new committee aimed at improving relationships with European IP organisations and liaising with the European Patent Office (EPO).

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The European Liaison Committee, chaired by former CIPA President Chris Mercer, will oversee the development and implementation of CIPA's strategy and policies in relation to Europe as directed by Council and to advise Council on European matters.

As the sunrise period of the Unified Patent Court (UPC) drew closer it was important for the committee to begin its work promptly. Members of the committee have already met with representatives from the Netherlands Institute of Patent Attorneys (Orde van Octrooigemachtigden) and the Association of European Patent Attorneys in Switzerland (VESPA) to discuss how the institutes could work closely together on matters relating to oral proceedings by video conference at the EPO and UPC case management system access issues. These meetings revealed several areas for co-operation and provided opportunities to discuss areas of mutual interest.

The committee plans to continue building these relationships in 2023 and has plans to meet with other institutes following the start of the UPC.

In addition to working with other institutes, the committee plans to work closely with members and other CIPA committees on EPO consultations and changes to the European Qualifying Examinations.

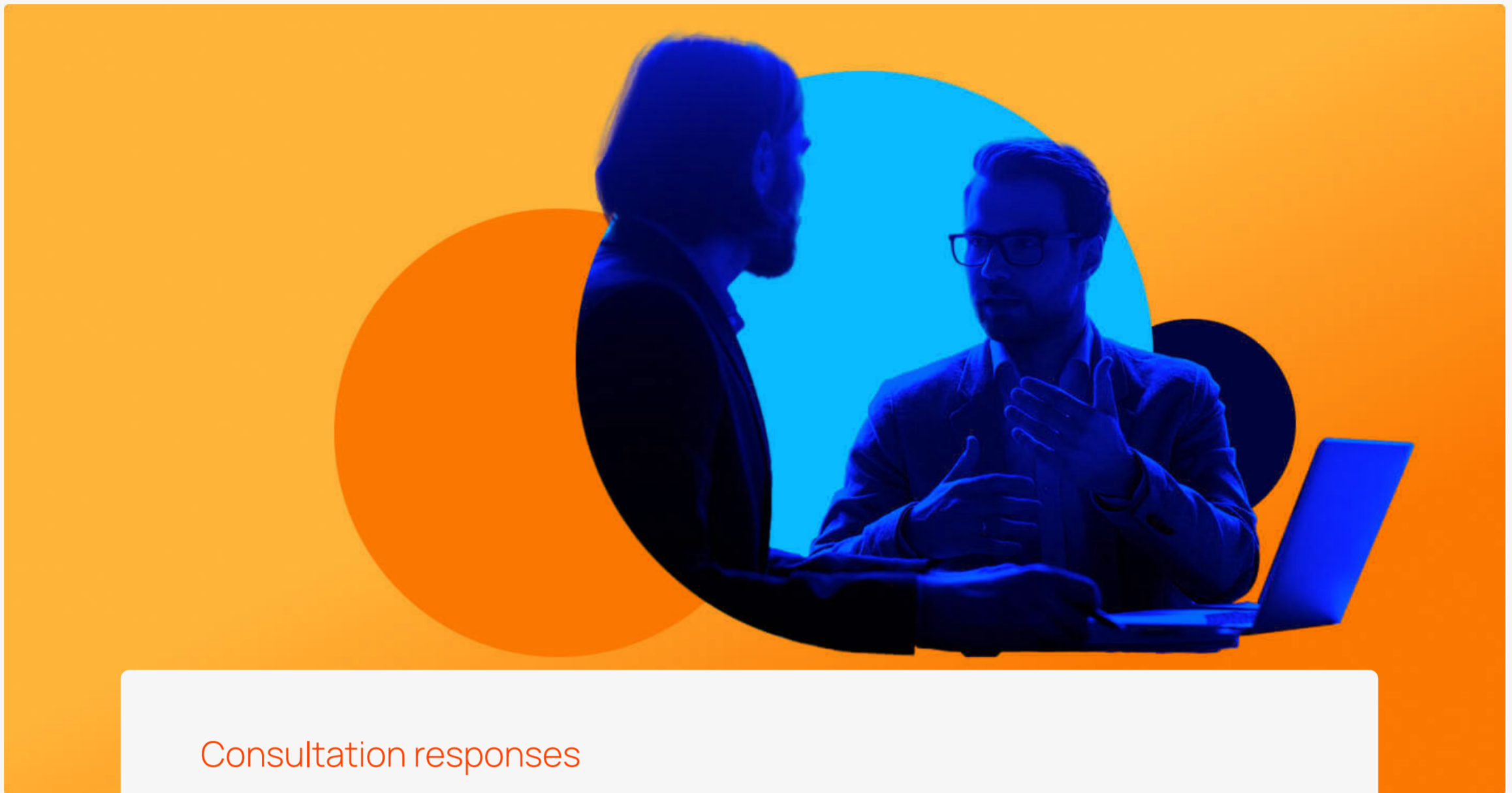


"As a trusted partner of the EPO, we deeply value CIPA's feedback. Our close exchanges help make sure that our services are fit for a complex, ever-evolving patent landscape. With the challenges we've faced over the last years, our joint cooperation and adaptability will also live on as the key lessons for the future. The drive to digital, for instance, has enhanced efficiency, connectivity and collaboration, and we will look to continue capitalising on these opportunities together. 2023 will be a year in which we will maintain close dialogue with CIPA, especially as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the EPC and prepare for the next strategic plan and the launch of the UP-UPC."

**António Campinos**

President, European Patent Office

# Consultation responses in 2022



## Consultation responses

- Response to IPO Consultation on AI and Inventorship
10 January 2022
- Response to the EPO's consultation on the latest version of the EPC and PCT-EPO Guidelines
20 April 2022
- Amicus brief: Enlarged Board case G 2/21 (Plausibility)
9 May 2022
- Response to UKIPO consultation on Substantive Patent Law Harmonisation
9 June 2022
- Enlarged Board consolidated cases G1/22 and G2/22 (Entitlement to priority)
4 August 2022
- Response to consultation on the proposals for a new EQE
1 September 2022

Congratulations to CIPA on another successful year. The IPO values our ongoing partnership with the CIPA board and your members, who are recognised as some of the best patent attorneys in the world.



"Your ongoing contribution to our consultations over the past year continues to provide invaluable input from your knowledgeable and experienced members. It helps us to continue deliver a world class and modern rights granting service, and develop a fair and balanced IP framework.

"Finally, I applaud the election of Daniel as the first Asian CIPA President, and his refreshed commitment to the promotion of diversity and inclusion in both the IP profession and wider society to empower inventors and creators.

"I look forward to continuing our partnership through IP Inclusive, enhancing and enriching our IP community through diversity and inclusion.

**Adam Williams**

CEO UK Intellectual Property Office

## Education Summary



Throughout the year we provided a full programme of webinars on a wide range of subjects, including a series focused on the upcoming Unified Patent Court, aimed at both Fellow and paralegal members.

The institute published a new edition of its Patents Training Manual. Edited by Honorary Secretary Gwilym Roberts and CIPA Council member Debbie Slater, the guide provided an up-to-date training programme and structured framework for study.

An independent review of the education, training and assessment arrangements for UK patent attorneys, known as the Mercer Review, was published in 2021, aiming to improve and modernise training and examination processes. Many of the review's recommendations were pursued and implemented by our Education Committee in 2022.

One recommendation was that more education for trainers was needed and the Committee responded by reinstating a "Train the Trainers" course, which included a short introduction to the new Patents Training Manual.

The committee continued to look at ways to implement the recommendations of the Mercer Review, such as CPD courses on an even wider range of topics, for example IP commercialisation, and worked with the Informals, CIPA's student body, to provide support to trainees in their exam-specific training. Some review recommendations fell outside of the remit of the committee and CIPA and these are expected to be addressed in future discussions with the IP Regulation Board (IPReg) and the Patent Examination Board (PEB).

The Education Committee also submitted detailed comments on the proposed changes to the European Qualifying Examinations on behalf of CIPA.

The Informals used to provide mutual social and professional support informally, before becoming a committee of CIPA several years ago. The Informals Committee is made up of trainee patent attorneys and continued to provide many services throughout 2022, including social events, lectures, a buddy scheme and workshops and tutorials for final examination papers.

The Informals' Honorary Secretary has a seat on CIPA Council. The committee also has representation on the Congress Committee and Education Committee and throughout the year ensured that student members were represented in all conversations about education and training.

The committee assisted with preparations for the Student Conference which ran successfully for the first time in 2022.

The UK Qualifying Examinations for patent attorneys were delivered online for the third year running by the PEB and, in most cases, the exams ran smoothly.

The PEB-CCC (Patent Examination Board – Candidate Consultative Committee) met twice during the year. The committee provides a focal point for candidate voice, to provide a means for discussion of candidates' experience and areas of concern, and to identify ways of enhancing the quality of PEB's qualification offer. The committee comprises members of PEB staff, PEB Governance Board, and representatives of the Informals. The Informals find it a useful forum for discussion, which helps to ensure that candidates' views are represented and considered in making decisions about how exams are delivered.



# Introductory IPPC and APPC



## Introductory Patent Paralegal Course (IPPC)

Registration for the IPPC opened on 23 June and closed on 28 June due to reaching the agreed capacity of 150.

Due to demand, and further agreement from the Paralegal Committee, the registration was re-opened on 1 August and closed again on 12 August to allow another 49 candidates to register.

In total 185 candidates completed the course, and 199 registered for the exam.

The IPPC started with an introductory webinar for mentors followed by the release of materials for the first unit. The course was held online this year with webinars, activities and supporting documents all available on student and mentor hubs.

The exams date of 26 January 2023 has been set and we wish all candidates the best with their course and we look forward to welcoming successful candidates to membership.

## Advanced Patent Paralegal Course (APPC)

The long-awaited advanced paralegal course will commence testing in January 2023.

A group of volunteers (APPC Students) have been selected and will complete one module (GB Unit) on the course before providing feedback for us to implement across remainder of the course.

The course testing is completely virtual, with a mixture of webinar recordings and independent study to complete in the students' own time. The GB Unit will take approximately 12 weeks to complete and will be followed by assessments to identify the correct standards.

We thank everyone who has been involved so far and we are looking forward to the outcome of testing. We hope to update everyone with our progress during 2023.

## CIPA conferences in 2022



# 2022

### CIPA Congress 2022 – Cancelled

Unfortunately, despite the hard work of our staff, the CIPA Congress committee and the speakers who were scheduled, CIPA Congress 2022 had to be cancelled. Initially, the planned rail strikes had forced us to move the event online with the venue, the QEII Centre, Westminster. But then, following the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the event centre decided it would be closed for the period of mourning, which meant our event had to be fully cancelled.

### Paralegals Conference

The Paralegals Conference was able to return to an in person event and we were glad to see that the Paralegals were as keen to get together as we were, with 172 Paralegals in attendance.

The event was hosted by our very own Lee Davies, who as always received raving reviews about his flamboyant entrance and ability to keep everyone upbeat for the day. Some of the topics included IPO Transformation updates, Mental Health Matters and the ePCT, delivered by speakers from across the globe at WIPO, EPO and the UKIPO.

A big thank you to the group of Paralegals members who support with the organisation of the event. The plans for next year's conference is underway and we look forward to seeing some new and familiar faces again for what is growing to be a very well attended conference for Paralegals and support staff.

### Life Science Conference

We were delighted that the Life Science Conference was able to return to an in person event in 2022. The conference was held over two days at The Midland Hotel in Manchester on the 28 and 29 November. Following the first day of the conference, a 3 course dinner was held for delegates and speakers, as well as drinks reception and a prize draw.

The conference was attended by 157 delegates.

Thank you to the Life Science Committee who help with plans for the conference. We look forward to the 2023 conference.

## Webinar programme



In 2022 we continued to work closely with the Professional Development Working Group to deliver an array of 45 CPD webinars which attracted an attendance of 11,421 throughout the year. Topics such as Case Law updates, Copyright in a post Brexit world and AI Guidelines were all very popular but the UPC Series attracted the most attendees with one recording nearly 800 in attendance.

We would like to thank the Professional Development Working Group for their continued support, their work has been vital to the development of the programme.

## Publications in 2022



The CIPA Journal welcomed a new editor in 2022. Jeremy Holmes took over from CIPA President Alasdair Poore. Jeremy was supported by a new editorial panel, Lauren Palmer, Paul Commander and Paul Cole. The Journal continued to keep members up to date with the latest intellectual property decisions with regular updates from the UK and European courts, the UK IPO, EPO and the EUIPO. CIPA Journal depends on the regular monthly reports from the volunteer teams at Beck Greener, Bristows, Bird & Bird and David Pearce at Barker Brettell, as well as Carpmaels and Ransford for its annual update on SPCs. There are many more contributors amongst CIPA members and elsewhere that the editor and his team are extremely grateful for. [See all issues for 2022](#).

At the start of the year a long-awaited update to the Patents Training Manual ('PTM') was published. The PTM an invaluable resource for any trainee (or even qualified attorney). All the chapters were fully updated by a team of 15 IP professionals guided by the tireless editors Debbie Slater and Gwilym Roberts. The PTM sets out a structured framework ensuring any trainee patent attorney receives the training that they need, saving the employer valuable time. Features include: authoritative chapters based on practical experience; encouragement for the trainee to play an active role in their learning and tie in their studies with practice in the workplace; suggestions as to further study and links to examination syllabi; and real-life scenarios to challenge the trainee.

Other titles updated in 2022 were a third edition of CIPA Study Guide to FD2: Drafting of Specifications, a CIPA examination study guide by Iain Russell, and a fourth edition of the European Unitary Patent and Unified Patent Court by Hugh Dunlop.

See all the books available from CIPA at [Shop - CIPA](#)

# Post-COVID Regional Meetings

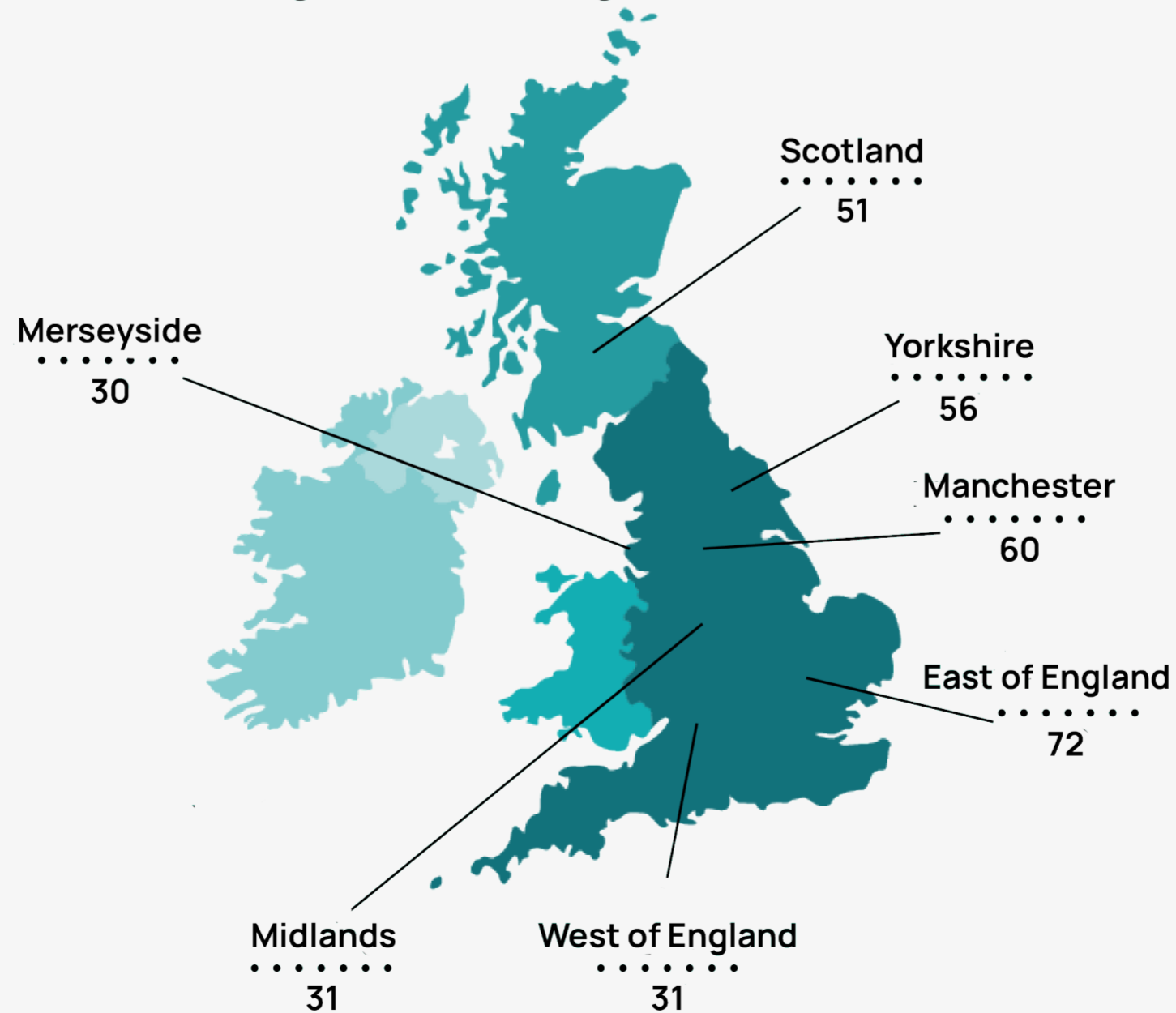


Following the lockdown, we, like the rest of the world were forced to cancel our regional meeting programme. During this time, the team was able to create new initiatives to provide the profession with vital IP content such as interactive webinars and the birth of the much loved podcast Two IPs in a Pod.

Despite the success and the engagement, there is nothing like getting together in person, so as soon as it was safe to do so we re-launched the regional meetings in 2022 visiting 7 different locations around the UK. It was clear that we were not the only ones looking forward to getting back to in-person meetings, with over 330 members in attendance across all meetings.

The message has been clearly received and we look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

## Regional Meetings - Attendance



## D&I Committee



In June, a special edition of the CIPA Journal focused on diversity and inclusion, with the chair of the D&I Committee Greg Iceton (Fellow) as guest editor. A wide range of topics looked at including: mental health first aid; gender stereotypes in legal writing; faith at work; tips for LGBTQ+ allies; how to harness the benefits of neurodiversity in the workplace; and an in-house attorney's perspective on D&I. As well updates from the IP Inclusive network and some help on recommended D&I reading. See the [full details](#)



# Sustainability Committee



The Sustainability Committee was formed in September 2022. The purpose of the Sustainability Committee is to oversee the development and implementation of CIPA's strategy and policies on sustainability as directed by Council, and to advise Council on sustainability matters.

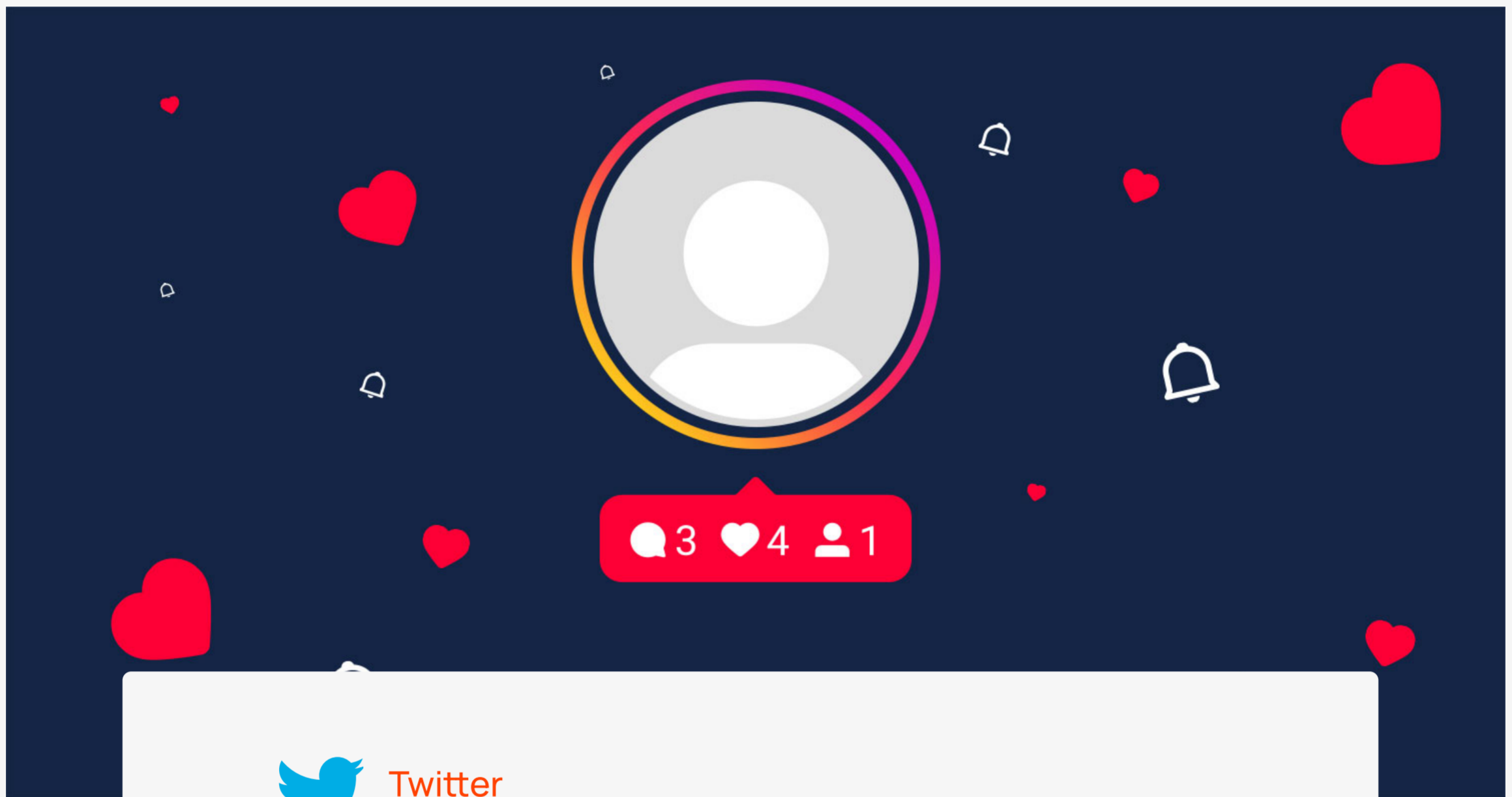
The committee chair is Alicia Instone and the Vice Chair is Jonathan Moodie.

The committee have set the following goals they hope to achieve:

- To provide thought leadership on sustainability for CIPA and the patent attorney profession.
- To explore, promote and oversee the implementation of policies and practical measures leading to a more sustainable CIPA and, by extension, patent attorney profession.
- To explore, promote and oversee the implementation of sustainable working practices for staff, Council, committees, and volunteer members.
- To advise Council on targets or metrics in relation to sustainability and to monitor progress towards those targets.
- To work in cooperation with other CIPA committees where there are shared interests in sustainability matters.
- To support Council in responding to consultations by government, official bodies and other external organisations on sustainability matters.

The committee are currently putting together a pledge to put forward to Council. Once approved, they will begin to move forwards to meet their aims.

# CIPA social media



## Twitter

@TheCIPA, @TheCIPAMembers

In 2022, our public Twitter page (aimed at businesses and members of the public) reached 4,440 followers, gaining 140 new follows over the year, and reached 155,000 tweet impressions (the number of times users saw the tweet on Twitter). We saw over 46,000 profile visits. Our private members Twitter page (which features more focused information to our members) reached 165 followers and over 5,000 tweet impressions. It saw 5,100 profile views in 2022.

Our most popular tweet, on the Earthshot had 9,680 impressions, 610 engagements and 395 likes.



## YouTube

We uploaded a range of video content to our YouTube channel in 2022. This included episodes of our podcast Two IPs in a Pod, three new case study videos on environmental sustainability, and an animation video on UK patent attorneys and the Unified Patent Court. This animation was also translated into Chinese, Japanese and Korean. Our YouTube videos earned 6,000 views over the course of the year, taking our overall channel views to over 59,000. We gained 50 new subscribers taking our total to 478 subscribers.



## LinkedIn

Our LinkedIn page increased by over 1000 followers, bringing the overall total to over 4000 followers. We received over 4,500 profile visits from 2,015 unique visitors.



## Instagram

@TheCIPA\_

Our Instagram followers increased from 201 to 263.