

## Powell Gilbert Adds IP Partner

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*Monday, Mar 10, 2008* --- One of the founding associates of the British intellectual property boutique Powell Gilbert LLP has been named the firm's sixth partner.

Rebecca Lawrence was one of 10 attorneys from Britstows who left to launch Powell Gilbert in March 2007. After being involved in some of the new firm's biggest cases during the past year, she will become a partner on April 1.

Lawrence said she's "probably one of the unusual people who always had their sights set on being a lawyer," even while pursuing a very different path in school — she has a master's degree in biological sciences from Oxford University.

"I absolutely love biology, and I was also very interested in being a lawyer," she said. She later received a diploma in intellectual property law and practice from Bristol University.

Lawrence was trained at Linklaters and moved to Bristows in 2000, where she became a senior associate in the IP department.

She has experience in a wide range of intellectual property rights and has been involved in litigation before the U.K. Patent Office, the High Court of Justice, the House of Lords and the European Patent Office.

"Becky brings a lot of experience in IP litigation, particularly in the life sciences, which is obviously of great value to us," said founding partner Tim Powell. "A year on, we're confident we have the capacity for a new partner, and Becky will be a good addition to the team."

The firm said that her scientific background enables her to offer comprehensive advice about technical issues. That skill was put to good use in Powell Gilbert's first year, where she worked on two of the firm's biggest cases.

Lawrence was involved in representing biotechnology giant Monsanto in a patent dispute with Cargill over genetically modified soybeans from Argentina. That case, the first in the U.K. over patents for genetically modified crops, is currently under appeal.

"That was a very experiment-intensive and biology-intensive case, so it was incredibly interesting for me," Lawrence said. "It was as much law as

science, basically."

In another case, the firm successfully represented Yeda, the technology transfer arm of the Weizmann Institute, in a case against ImClone over the cancer drug Erbitux. The unanimous decision allowed Yeda to continue to pursue its patent claims against ImClone and established a precedent for the issue of entitlement to claim rights on a patent.

In addition, Lawrence has worked on cases in which the firm has represented Novartis, Gillette and Dr Reddy's.

Several cases she has worked on involve anti-counterfeiting for well known household brands. Typically in those cases, consumers have purchased counterfeit goods and the lawyers need to trace the path of how they ended up on the market.

When Lawrence becomes a partner next month, Powell Gilbert will have six partners, seven associates and three paralegals. The firm has grown from 12 attorneys to 22 in the past year and has added attorneys from Taylor Wessing, Briffa, and the Australian firm, Allens Arthur Robinson.

"We have had an amazing start," founder partner, Penny Gilbert said in a statement marking the firm's first anniversary. "We are doing interesting and innovative work for great clients, we have a remarkable team and we have a great working environment. The last year has been tremendous."

Now one of the largest patent litigation teams in the U.K., the firm is dedicated to serving knowledge, technology and brands-based industries. The firm's attorneys have assisted in cases before many overseas courts, including in Europe, the U.S., Australia and Japan.

-- Additional reporting by Elaine Chow