Career Choices in Intellectual Property

By
Pamela J. Scott
Legal Division
Pfizer, Inc.
Forms of protecting IP include:

- Patents
- Copyright
- Trademarks
- Trade Secrets
Career choices:

- Attorney
  - law school, patent bar exam, state bar exam

- Agent
  - Patent bar exam

- Examiner
  - More info available at www.USPTO.org,
More career choices...

- Science / technical advisor
  - Usually PhD in scientific area

- Educator
  - MS or PhD in scientific area

- Searcher
  - MS or PhD in scientific area
  - Specialty training in searching & analysis

- Independent consultant
  - All of the above
Employers:

- Patent Offices
- Government
- Small private companies
- Public companies
- Academia
- Law firms
- Consulting groups
- Judiciary
- Trade organizations
- Independent
Self assessment

- Level of education
  - Additional education in law and/or science

- Scientific disciplines
  - Chemistry, biology, genetics, engineering, etc.

- Skill set(s):
  - Attention to detail, scientific reasoning, being able to see the ‘big-picture’, multi-tasking, written & verbal communications, client service, task-oriented, legal reasoning

- Interests
Career planning

- Identify area(s) of interest
- Assess current skills
- Select target career(s)
- Identify new skills needed, sharpened
- Determine how to obtain:
  - Education
  - Training
  - Internship
  - Contacts, Mentors
References

- Previously given talks (ACS / CI NF & CHAL Divisions)
- Intellectual Property Law Careers, section of the American Bar Association www.abanet.org
Thank you!