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Welcome SIPLR – a modern student revolution!

Today, we welcome the latest addition to the flora of law reviews, the SIPLR. What is special about this law review is that SIPLR is a student initiative devoted to intellectual property (IP) law. In this respect, the SIPLR marks a major new step and is a recognition of almost 20 years of successive developments of the Master Programme in European IP law. The SIPLR is not only an expression of the students' interest in IP law, but also of them claiming their rights as citizens in the world of IP. They want to make their mark on the Master Class of 2017-18 and pass the baton on to the future generations of master students. This is the new world of Facebookers, Linked Ins and You tubers where IP in many ways has redefined the limits, restrictions, exceptions and considerations, and is also the way to hang out.

This new initiative with the SIPLR reminds me of how we, a number of IP enthusiasts in the late 1990s, after years of discussions with our Nordic colleagues, finally in January 2000, launched a Master Programme in European IP Law at Stockholm University. It sounds bolder than it really was. University life was less complicated then, i.e. fewer actors and less bureaucracy. In addition, the timing was obviously right, as there were few universities offering an advanced education in European IP law in Europe or elsewhere, and there was a global demand for IP experts. Today, there is a great awareness of IP and other value-based commodities at universities as well as in companies, and there is a wide selection of IP law courses and master programmes to choose from.

Nevertheless, Sweden and Stockholm University had especially good conditions for initiating an IP master as Stockholm University has a long tradition of awareness of IP law. As early as 1910 two prominent professors at Stockholm University, Birger Ekeberg and Gösta Eberstein, together with the business community and governmental agencies, in particular the patent office, formed an alliance for the development of IP law as an important state policy and a natural motor for industrial competition. With such a tradition, it is not surprising that already by the second half of last century, IP law had become a mandatory part of the law programme at Stockholm University, and in 1994, it received the status of a separate, mandatory course, which was unique at the time.

From that perspective, an IP Master at Stockholm University is a natural development. Starting an international IP Law Review may not be as obvious, at least not until it is done. Now, in hindsight, the SIPLR comes almost as a generic development. The SIPLR is a new branch that positions the Stockholm IP Master programme as a prominent and given element of the modern IP world in 2018 and beyond. That an IP Law Review should happen in Stockholm, Sweden is after all neither astonishing, nor fake news, the SIPLR is very genuine.

Looking back at many happy years with the Master Programme in European IP law and the many smart and engaged students over the years, I am still very impressed and proud over this year's spontaneous student initiative and its manifestation under the Programme's new team of Directors, Associate professors Åsa Hellstadius and Frantzeska Papadopoulou, who once were my students. Hence, the SIPLR prepares us well for the 2020s and for future generations in the world of IP.

Long live the SIPLR!

Marianne Levin
Professor, LID, PhD *h.c.*



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