

## Making our mark Events, conferences and kudos

### Inta Annual Meeting 2009 – SEATTLE

Spoor & Fisher attended the INTA (International Trademark Association) Annual meeting, which was held this year in Seattle, Washington, from 16 to 20 May. INTA is the largest trade mark related conference in the world. While this year's attendance was slightly down due to the economic climate, it was still quite well attended, with 7 800 people registered from across the world, including many of our foreign associates and corporate clients.

Our team this year included Jean McIvor, Stephen Goldberg, Charles Webster, Mohamed Khader and Kay Rickelman, from South Africa, and Mike Sevant and Julie Hughes from Jersey. (Ref: Photo 1)

With busy schedules, it was almost a case of Sleepless in Seattle (different context of course), with early morning to late at night one-on-one meetings with clients, meetings held by corporations for all of their trade mark attorneys worldwide, educational seminars and INTA committee meetings. Networking was par for the course, with everyone attending receptions, dinner and lunches hosted by our associates and clients. Spoor & Fisher also hosted two events for our clients: a lunch organised and hosted by Stephen, Jean and Julie and a dinner organised and hosted by Mike, Charles and Kay.

Kay also enjoyed the privilege of attending her first meeting as a member of the INTA board of directors, whose term will run for the next three years. (Ref: Photo 2)

### Enforcement of Copyright in Nigeria

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) extended an invitation to Spoor & Fisher to participate in a conference in Abuja, Nigeria on 5 and 6 May this year on the Enforcement of Copyright. The conference was a joint effort between WIPO and the Nigerian Copyright Council (NCC). Herman Blignaut, one of our copyright fundis (experts) in our Enforcement Department, attended. Herman was involved in two presentations, entitled Overview of Copyright and Related Rights – The International Legal Framework and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights – International Standards of Enforcement of IP Rights, respectively. There were numerous other speakers from Nigeria who dealt with a range of topics, including customs and border issues, the judiciary, piracy and broadcasting. Herman rubbed shoulders with representatives from WIPO (Victor Guizar), the NCC and REPRONIG, the Nigerian equivalent of DALRO in South Africa.

Herman also got the opportunity to savour the local brew, cuisine and culture when the representatives from the NCC took him to interesting restaurants and club venues! (Ref: Photo 3, 4)



### Cape Town bioprospecting workshops

Spoor & Fisher, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT, recently renamed the Department of Water and Environmental Affairs), hosted workshops in Cape Town and Stellenbosch on the bioprospecting provisions of the Biodiversity Act. These workshops, held in May, not only afforded the department the opportunity to explain to our clients when a bioprospecting permit is needed and how to go about applying for a permit, but also provided attendees with the opportunity to raise their concerns with members of DEAT about some of the practical difficulties of the Act's provisions. This is the first of a number of product seminars that Spoor & Fisher will be hosting this year.

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### Spoor & Fisher ranked SA's leading IP law firm, again!

Spoor & Fisher has been named as South Africa's leading intellectual property law firm, for the second year in a row. The award was conferred at the fourth annual Managing Intellectual Property Global Awards ceremony held in March at the Dorchester Hotel in London, where the world's leading IP law firms were named. More than 250 guests from 230 countries attended the awards ceremony, which was put together by Managing Intellectual Property magazine, the leading publication of its kind in the world.

The rankings were compiled by Managing Intellectual Property's team of researchers in London, New York and Hong Kong, covering 70 markets in four geographical areas: Africa and the Middle East, Americas, Asia and Europe over a period of six months. In total more than 50 awards were presented to the world's leading Intellectual Property law firms. The firms were ranked according to their expertise and their ability to service clients. Spoor & Fisher edged out 10 other intellectual property law firms to win the award. Nolwazi Gcaba represented the firm at the awards ceremony in London. (Ref: Photo 5)

