

# The IP Inclusive Leaders' Pledge



To make diversity and inclusivity a reality,  
it has to be a priority.

I'm proud to sign up to the Leaders' Pledge, to  
underline our Firm's commitment to implementing  
a genuine and effective D&I agenda.

**STEVE SMITH**

MANAGING PARTNER & BOARD MEMBER  
PATENT ATTORNEY



## **Providing visible and proactive leadership to improve D&I in my organisation**

**1** 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

### **I WILL DEMONSTRATE THIS COMMITMENT BY:**

- Being personally involved in, and contributing to, D&I projects and events
- Putting my name to a public statement of our Firm's commitment to D&I and of its D&I objectives, strategy and policies
- Acting as an ally to, and champion for, colleagues from under-represented groups

## Taking D&I seriously at the highest level

1 **2** 3 4 5 6 7 8

### I WILL DEMONSTRATE THIS COMMITMENT BY:

- Allocating budget to D&I work
- Acting as, or appointing, a D&I champion at board/partnership level
- Encouraging my senior colleagues to do as I do to provide visible and proactive leadership on D&I issues

## Embedding and valuing D&I throughout the organisational culture

1 2 **3** 4 5 6 7 8

### I WILL DEMONSTRATE THIS COMMITMENT BY:

- Building a culture in which the whole of our Firm is involved in the quest for D&I
- Recognising D&I-related achievements in performance evaluation and professional development systems
- Encouraging and allowing time for staff to work on D&I-related projects and training (including outreach and wellbeing initiatives)



## **Building trust and safe spaces throughout the organisation**

1 2 3 **4** 5 6 7 8

### **I WILL DEMONSTRATE THIS COMMITMENT BY:**

- Establishing an internal D&I forum with representatives from all roles and all levels within the organisation
- Introducing a zero-tolerance policy on discrimination and harassment
- Encouraging all staff, at all levels, to bring their whole selves to work and speak openly about their identities



## **Educating myself and my colleagues about D&I issues**

1 2 3 4 **5** 6 7 8

### **I WILL DEMONSTRATE THIS COMMITMENT BY:**

- Providing allyship, privilege awareness and/or unconscious bias training for staff at all levels, including board/partnership level
- Seeking opportunities to discuss the experiences of colleagues from under-represented groups
- Communicating my learnings from these discussions within the wider Firm

## Sharing my privileges

1 2 3 4 5 **6** 7 8

### I WILL DEMONSTRATE THIS COMMITMENT BY:

- Involving our Firm in some form of outreach scheme to improve access to the IP professions (eg a work experience, internship, sponsored placement or similar scheme), working where appropriate with outreach charities and community interest groups
- Encouraging staff in all roles and at all levels to get involved, and leading by example with my own involvement
- Ensuring that staff in our Firm are aware of, and ideally involved with, IP Inclusive's Careers in Ideas outreach initiative

## Insisting on equity

1 2 3 4 5 6 **7** 8

### I WILL DEMONSTRATE THIS COMMITMENT BY:

- Establishing fair, diversity-enhancing recruitment and promotion procedures throughout my organisation
- Regularly reviewing the procedures with HR colleagues to evaluate their impact on D&I levels in the organisation and if necessary improve them
- Where feasible, adopting the initiatives suggested in IP Inclusive's "Practical steps to improve BAME representation" publication





**Working closely with  
HR and management  
colleagues to achieve this**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 **8**

**I WILL DEMONSTRATE THIS COMMITMENT BY:**

- Involving HR personnel in board/partnership level decision-making on D&I-impacting issues
- Allowing them access to D&I-related training and professional development and valuing the expertise they acquire from it
- Encouraging involvement of board/partnership level colleagues in HR communications, conversations and projects