

Joseph Straus –

outstanding knowledge of intellectual property

Professor Dr. Dres. h.c. Joseph Straus is a director at the Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property, Competition and Tax Law in Munich and spokesman for the board of directors of the Munich Intellectual Property Law Center which comprises four partner institutions: the Max-Planck Society, the Technical University of Munich, the University of Augsburg and the George Washington University Law School in Washington, DC.

He studied law in Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Munich, where in 1968 he was awarded a doctorate for a thesis written at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Patent, Copyright and Competition Law. After a few years in legal practice he returned to the Max Planck Institute, and now also teaches at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich and George Washington University. He holds several honorary professorships in China, and is Visiting Professor at Cornell Law School (Ithaca, New York) and Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Toronto University Faculty of Law.

Professor Straus is Vice-President of the German Association for Industrial Property and Copyright Law and a member of various academic bodies. He was chairman of the Programme Committee of the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI) from 1997 to 2006, and of the Intellectual Property Rights Committee of the Human Genome Organisation (HUGO) from 1995 to 2006.

He received the Science Award 2000 of the *Stifterverband für die deutsche Wissenschaft* (association of German science foundations), and in 2005 he was awarded the *Grosser Bundesverdienstkreuz* (Federal German Order of Merit), with Justice Minister Brigitte Zypries paying tribute to him as "one of the best German and European academics in the intellectual property field". Professor Straus was awarded the *Premio Venezia* for services to intellectual property. He also holds honorary doctorates from the universities of Ljubljana and Kragujevac (Serbia) and, over the years, has advised numerous international organisations, governments and parliaments.