

Managing Your Agreement: What to Do When Things Don't Go According To Plan!

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Managing Your Agreement: What to Do When Things Don't Go According To Plan!

Speakers:

Ken Levin, US Department of Veterans Affairs Hassan Naqvi, Vanderbilt University Sharmila Shearing, NewSouth Innovations

Sept 10, 2014



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Questions?

We look forward to answering your questions today.



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Managing your Agreement

What to do when things don't go according to plan!





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Overview

- 1. View the contract as a living document
- 2. What can go wrong, amiss or awry?
- 3. Monitoring your agreement How will you know
- things are not going according to plan?
- 4. Managing terms to manage risk of non-compliance
- 5. Maintaining the business relationship



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Part 1. View the contract as a living document

- · First and foremost a business agreement
 - Describes the mutual expectations of two parties
 - What to do when the unexpected happens
- What drives the business side of the license?
 - For the licensee
 - For the licensor
- What drives the strategic relationship?
 - Revenue
 - Reputation
 - Next step in a research project
 - Long term collaboration



Part 1. View the contract as a living document

- Sets out agreed commercial terms and means of communication

 Best guess at the start, but may not be best in the future.
- A legally binding document
 - Legal enforcement is the glue that holds the business terms together.
 - The contract memorializes the quid pro quo behind the business deal.
- Rarely a static or fixed arrangement
 - Nothing goes as planned. Recognize it. Allow for it.
- It can be amended
 - Inherent in a legal contract
 - You can always amend the contract, formally (best) or informally.



Part 2. What can go wrong, amiss or awry?

License is a snapshot of the hopes and expectations of both parties

- Product development failure
- Change of strategy by the licensee
- · Not making financial payments, by choice or necessity
- · Failure to understand or implement the contract on the part of a licensee
- Patent prosecution matters
- Changes in licensee status
- Action or failure to act by the TTO impacting on licensed rights
- Monitoring or engaging/communication between parties to ascertain how your asset is being dealt with
- Traditionally case manager others have a dedicated compliance function



Part 3. Monitoring your agreement - How will you know things are not going according to plan?

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Management of communication with the licensee

- The signed agreement is the beginning of the real work.
- The success of the deal is dependant on monitoring and managing the signed • agreement after the 'ribbon cutting'.
- Communication with the licensee will be determined by formal contractual terms ٠ and informal TTO practices.
- A dedicated compliance program fosters certainty and consistency in dealings with licensees.



Part 3. Monitoring your agreement

A compliance program or system

- Value of a technology transfer software solution •
- Content of a compliance program review and record the contract terms
- Useful tools Automated reminders, make use of existing office infrastructure, • SOPs, guidelines, checklists, templates, Google Alerts



Part 3. Monitoring your agreement - Who is responsible for managing the agreement post-deal?





3. Monitoring your agreement

Summary - Managing contractual obligations

- Need for ongoing communication with the licensee
- Contract terms determine compliance requirements
- Maintain the relationship through formal and informal contact



4. Managing terms to manage risk of non-compliance

- Periodic reporting
- Financials
- Audit rights Financial and Performance
- Termination automatic and elective



Part 4. Examples of applying terms – termination provision

- When do you terminate?
- Using termination tools to facilitate discussion around continuing agreement
- Hostile termination is not advisable
- Bankruptcy of licensee



Part 4. Managing terms to manage compliance risk

- Assignment
- Amending the license
- Flexible terms



Part 5. Maintaining the business relationship

- Dealing with change from a strategic perspective
- Handling contractual terms that are not working
- If there is a breach negotiate first
- Protecting the strategic interests and objectives of the TTO/University
- Achieving a win-win outcome



Thank you!

Ken Levin Hassan Naqvi Sharmila Shearing



Questions? Comments?



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