



THINK FORWARD

Brinks and MBHB Lead Team USA to Victory in 26th Annual Patent Cup Regatta

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Front row (left to right): Patrick Erk (Grünecker), Derek Minihane (Cochlear Limited), Marcus Thymian (MBHB), and Gary Ropski (Brinks Gilson & Lione).
Back row: Richard Carden (MBHB)

CHICAGO—Friendship, sailing and fun were the prevailing matters at hand for team captains Gary M. Ropski of Brinks Gilson & Lione and Marcus J. Thymian of McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP (MBHB), who recently led Team USA to a first place finish in the 26th Annual Patent Cup Regatta, a series of sailboat races created in 1989 to foster camaraderie and cultivate relationships among patent attorneys from around the globe.

'Friendly competition among peers is what the Patent Cup is all about,' said Ropski, a highly regarded patent attorney and past president of Brinks, who participated in his seventh Patent Cup Regatta this

year. 'Of course, in the courtroom or on the water, it's always most fun to win, and I was proud of our team members for using their competitive drive to bring home the cup.'

The June event, hosted by German patent attorneys and held in Warnemünde, a Baltic Sea resort in the former German Democratic Republic, attracted eleven teams representing countries in North America and Europe, as well as the European Patent Office. The sailors competed in seven separate contests over the course of three days in identically rigged boats.

Team USA, which also won the Patent Cup in 2006 and 2010, took first place this year in three races, second place in three races, and third place in one race, for an aggregate race score that was eight points better than that of the second place team. Team USA was rounded out by Derek Minihane, head of intellectual property strategy at Australian medical device company Cochlear, Ltd.; Dr. Patrick P. Erk of German IP firm Grünecker; and MBHB partner S. Richard Carden.

'This is an amazing annual event,' said Thymian, a patent lawyer and managing partner at MBHB. "The chance to build lifelong relationships across continents through sailing is quite the opportunity."

Next year's Patent Cup Regatta will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, to coincide with the 2015 World Congress of the Fédération Internationale des Conseils en Propriété Intellectuelle (FICPI).

Brinks Gilson & Lione

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