

Letters to the Editor

Stamp Duty

From: Mr. M. Haines

Dear Sir, In the Stamp Office notes, reproduced at September [1999] CIPA 770-775, it is stated: "The Stamp Office has asked the Patent Office not to accept the statement on their form that the proper stamp duty has been paid without seeing the duly stamped document concerned". Of course, the Patent Office mercifully removed this requirement some time ago, provided that the form is signed by, or on behalf of, all parties to the transaction (see the Manual of Practice at 32.09).

As an aside, the text entry in the official register always indicates that a certified copy has been filed, whether or not this is the case. I am advised that the software is designed to enter such wording regardless. In the same vein, every assignment is stated to be a deed.

Yours faithfully,

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EPA Fellows

From: Mr. N. Marlow

Dear Sir, I disagree strongly with the sentiments expressed by Mr Farwell in his letter (September [1999] CIPA 836) suggesting that EPAs who are not qualified as CPAs should be admitted to the Institute as Fellows.

I believe that the UK patent profession enjoys a reputation worldwide as a well qualified and knowledgeable profession, to our benefit. One reason for this is the ability and breadth of knowledge needed to pass the UK qualifying examination. In future, with the inevitable further centralisation of patent application procedures, this good reputation will be increasingly important to us.

The EPA qualifying examination is much narrower in scope than the UK examination, and that alone is sufficient for us to regard the qualification of EPA as of lower standard than that of CPA. From my own experience and observation of others' experiences I have no doubt that in some areas at least the EPA examination is easier to pass than the UK