

## **Patent Policy and Practice in the University Environment**

**William Wood, Gates & Cooper, LLP**

The talk given by William Wood is divided into three parts. The first part provides a brief overview of the history of intellectual property law and the associated public policy issues that motivate governments to grant and enforce intellectual property rights (e.g. patents). The second part provides a summary of what makes inventions patentable, the organization and structure of patent applications and the process for obtaining a patent. The third part provides a discussion of patenting in the University environment. This portion of the talk includes a review of the practical issues that University personnel must consider when seeking patent protection for their inventions as well as a summary of the associated pitfalls and tips on how to avoid them.