



# THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

Proudly Presents The

## 2014 Creator Of The Year Award

The IPLAC Creator of the Year Award is given to honor the creative achievements, primarily in the Chicago metropolitan area, which are eligible for any form of intellectual property protection – patents, copyrights, or trademarks. This year IPLAC is proud to recognize Douglas U. Mennie, President and Chief Operating Officer of Cummins Allison Corp., as the winner of the 2014 IPLAC Creator of the Year Award.

For the past 30 years, Douglas Mennie has been inventing and patenting products directed to the full gamut of currency processing equipment and systems – from high-speed coin counting, sorting, authenticating, and wrapping devices to high-speed currency bill counting, denominating, authenticating, and sorting devices as well as currency bill and check imaging devices and financial transaction processing methods and ATMs. As of February 2014, Mr. Mennie has been awarded 157 U.S. patents and was recognized as the sixth most prolific inventor in the Chicago-area in 2013 by Crain’s Chicago Business.

Mr. Mennie’s inventions have enabled Cummins Allison to manufacture and sell currency and check processing equipment that is faster, more accurate, and less expensive than comparable equipment. For example, the JetScan® iFX® i100 scanner processes 1,600 bills per minute – 33% faster than other money counting machines while at the same time acquiring a complete image of every bill processed and denominating and authenticating each bill. This device contains advanced counterfeit detection and can capture and extract the serial number of processed bills. This same device can also process checks at 400 documents per minute.

Furthermore, some of Mr. Mennie’s inventions aid the nation’s police and enforcement agencies by providing them equipment and systems for tracking illegal activity. For example, law enforcement and banks no longer need to maintain special packages of “marked” currency such as those with consecutive serial numbers. Rather using the currency imaging devices developed according to some





of Mr. Mennie’s patents, random bills may be run through such a device, an image of each bill obtained, and the serial number and other information may be extracted. The images and/or extracted serial numbers may be stored to a nationally accessible database. When bills involved in a crime (such as law enforcement drug “buy” money) are later deposited in a bank or confiscated by law enforcement and processed by another Cummins Allison scanner, they can be quickly identified and associated with the account into which the money is deposited and/or with prior drug “buys.” Similarly Mr. Mennie’s inventions which contributed to the development of small, lightweight, and portable currency scanners help protect police by enabling them to quickly count vast amounts of currency confiscated in drug busts and raids, secure the money, and quickly leave dangerous areas.

Mr. Mennie’s ingenuity has helped Cummins Allison of Mt. Prospect, Illinois grow from a company of 540 employees in 1985 to over 1150 employees in 2014. The combination of this ingenuity and the resulting patents has enabled Cummins-Allison to continue to grow its U.S. manufacturing capabilities and the number of corresponding U.S. manufacturing jobs during a time period when U.S. manufacturing jobs have otherwise been leaving the country.

Mr. Mennie received a Bachelor of Science in Industry and Technology from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois. He presently lives in Barrington, Illinois with his wife, Susan.