

MEDIA ADVISORY #00-51
September 5, 2000

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USPTO TO HOLD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will hold a two-day symposium on the enforcement of intellectual property rights in the Western Hemisphere. The symposium will be held in Arlington, VA on September 11-12, 2000, and will concentrate on enforcement issues involving the Internet, optical media piracy, and business software and business method patents, in today's digital age.

"As of January 1, 2000, most countries in the Western Hemisphere were required to effectively enforce intellectual property rights in accordance with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Increasingly, effective enforcement requires efforts designed to combat the growing use of the Internet and other digital technologies in the development and distribution of pirated and counterfeit goods," said Q. Todd Dickinson. "This symposium will address practical problems and explore realistic solutions for protecting patents, trademarks and copyrights in today's digital environment."

Among the confirmed speakers and panellists are World Intellectual Property Organization Director General, Dr. Kamil Idris, and industry representatives, intellectual property rights holders, private practitioners, and governmental representatives from 30 countries in the Western Hemisphere, including Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, United States, and Venezuela.

WHAT: Intellectual Property Symposium of the Americas

WHEN: September 11, 2000 and September 12, 2000
09:30 a.m. - 05:30 p.m.

WHERE: Crystal City Sheraton Hotel
1800 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202

Tuesday's luncheon will be at the Four Seasons Hotel
2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C.

A copy of the agenda is below:

Monday, SEPTEMBER 11

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| 08:00 a.m. - 04:30 p.m. | Registration |
| 09:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Welcoming Remarks and Opening Ceremonies |
| 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Plenary Roundtable I
E-Commerce and Other Strategies For Turning Intellectual
Property Protection into Investment Opportunities |
| 11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. | Coffee Break |
| 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Intellectual Property Rights and the Internet: Digital
Distribution and the Technological Threat to Intellectual
Property

Break-out Roundtable B Establishing a Workable
Enforcement System under TRIPS: Practical Problems and
Potential Solutions

Break-out Roundtable C Adapting "Hard" Goods
Enforcement Techniques to Cyberspace |
| 02:45 p.m. - 04:00 p.m. | Break-out Roundtable D
Legal and Technological Obstacles to Protecting Intellectual
Property in the Digital Age: Practical Problems and Realistic
Solutions

Break-out Roundtable E
Copyright and the WIPO Treaties: Protecting Content on the
Internet

Break-out Roundtable A |
| 04:15 p.m. - 05:30 p.m. | Break-out Roundtable F
Creating an Effective Enforcement Program With Limited
Resources: Some Models for Facilitating Information and
Resource Sharing

Break-out Roundtable G
Prevention v. Cure: Creating Effective Educational and Public
Awareness Enforcement Campaigns |

Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 12

- 09:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Plenary Roundtable II
Resolving Domain Name Problems in Cyberspace
- 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Coffee Break
- 10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Break-out Roundtable H
Technology Transfers and The Ins and Outs of Licensing
- Break-out Roundtable J
Trademark Counterfeiting and the Net: Enforcing Rights on
the Internet Frontier
- 02:45 p.m. - 03:45 p.m. Plenary Roundtable III
Future Issues in Intellectual Property Enforcement:
Technology Patents and Confidential Information
- 03:45 p.m. - 04:00 p.m. Coffee Break
- 04:00 p.m.- 05:15 p.m. Plenary Roundtable IV
An Action Plan for the Future: A Dialogue Among the
Participants on Future Problems and Solutions
- 05:15 p.m. - 05:45 p.m. Closing Ceremonies
- 06:30 p.m. - 08:30 p.m. Closing Reception at Capitol Hill