

Meet AGIP and TAG-legal at INTA Annual Meeting 2018 in Seattle, Washington

Free Trademark Recordation at Dubai Economic Department



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Meet AGIP and TAG-Legal at INTA Annual Meeting 2018 in Seattle, Washington

SEATTLE - Representatives from different countries will take part in INTA's 140th Annual Meeting 2018 to be held in Seattle, Washington, May 19-23, 2018.

AGIP and TAG-Legal are keen to attend this event which will be a great opportunity to meet our clients and gain a better understanding of their needs related to IP matters in our region, and to learn about our award in China:

Selected one of the TOP 10 firms in China

Find us at:

Sheraton Seattle Hotel

1400 6th Ave, Seattle, WA, 98101, USA

Meeting rooms:

CHELAN, EAGLE BOARDROOM – Ground Floor

VIRGINIA and UNIVERSITY – Fourth Floor

When:

Saturday May 19th – Wednesday 23th

9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Our Team

1. Luay T. Abu-Ghazaleh
2. Charles Sha'ban (Regional Office)
3. Dima Naber (Regional Office)
4. Nabil Salame (Canada Liaison)
5. Motasem Abu-Ghazaleh (UAE)
6. Hicham Zamzam (KSA)
7. Amjad Al-Husseini (UAE)
8. Fathi Abu-Nemeh (Tunisia)
9. Sami Younis (Qatar)
10. Hazem Abu-Ghazaleh (Kuwait, Oman)
11. Amro Hattab (Jordan, Palestine, Iraq)
12. Nemer Shibly (Lebanon)
13. Tarek Al-Khatib (Egypt, Sudan)
14. Ali Hijazi (Special Clients Department)
15. Noor Shangwei (China, Hong Kong)
16. Georgina Busku (Hungary Liaison)
17. Aamir Khan (Pakistan)
18. Babu Nambarath (Afghanistan)
19. Rachid Mounir (Morocco)
20. Rasha Bazian (Regional Office)
21. Meliha Ozat (Turkey)
22. Abhishek Rohra (India)
23. Sergei Kambalov (Russia)
24. Samer Jamhour (Algeria, Libya)
25. Dema Abu-Zuleikha (TAG-Legal)
26. Laith Damer (TAG-Legal Arab Countries)
27. Jiawei Hou (China)
28. Souzan Jamjoum (Regional Office)
29. Nzoputa Ozoekwem (Nigeria)
30. Francesca Gesue (Italy Liaison)

In order to schedule a meeting, please contact us at: inta@agip.com



Free Trademark Recordation at Dubai Economic Department

DUBAI - Department of Economic Development (DED) has a new online gateway for all brand owners to register their brand free of charge in their system to achieve the maximum control over the markets to manage the threat of counterfeiting goods.

This recording platform provides brand owners with the highest level of protection for their rights in Dubai. DED is the most active IP enforcement agency in Dubai and has its own investigator who undertake periodical market searches to check any counterfeited products in Dubai Markets. This recordation is a game changer for trademark owners. Counterfeit products shall be under surveillance of the Dubai DED officers without any fee or expenses for the recorded trademarks. The official complaints are still required to be filed to take action against a particular infringer.

After deduction or seizure of any counterfeiting or suspected counterfeited products, DED shall report the matter to the trademark agent in order to file a formal complaint.

The requirements to record the trademark before the DED are simple copies of the UAE trademark registration certificate and the power of attorney.

We are pleased to inform you that we have decided to offer this service to our valuable clients free of charge. Kindly provide us with your instructions in order to proceed accordingly.

Please contact us at the following email address: uae@tag-legal.com





Over \$500m Worth of Fake Goods Seized in Dubai in 2017

DUBAI - A total of 26.2 million pieces of counterfeit goods were seized in 2017 in Dubai, valued at \$517 million (AED1.9bn).

The figure, revealed by the Commercial Compliance & Consumer Protection (CCCP) sector in the Department of Economic Development (DED), was a 63% increase on last year's figure of AED1.16bn.

Shoes topped the list of counterfeit items confiscated, with 51,144 pieces worth approximately AED 400 million, accounting for 37% of the total value of the goods seized.

Bags and other leather products stood at 337,212 pieces worth AED 72.1 million, while 2.2 million cigarettes worth AED 338.7 million came third, followed by cosmetics at 5.9 million pieces worth AED 61.3 million and telephone accessories with 3.6 million pieces worth AED 50 million.

As many as 2.9 million packing cases worth AED 18.6 million were also confiscated, in addition to 2.5 million pieces of perfumes worth AED 34.5 million and 2.3 million construction materials worth AED 14.2 million.

Mohammed Ali Rashid Lootah, CEO of CCCP, said, "Business competitiveness is essentially linked to transparency and fairness as well as protection of intellectual property rights."

The goods confiscated in 2017 included imitations of luxury brands, such as AED 400 million worth of shoes, 1,908 pieces of jewellery worth AED 29.5 million and 149,321 mobile phones worth AED 44.4 million, according to Ibrahim Behzad, Director of Intellectual Property Rights Management in DED.

A live demonstration of destroying counterfeit goods was also part of the meeting.

Behzad warned consumers of the health dangers of counterfeit goods, and urged them to resist the lure of cheaper prices, calling on them to report the abuses to DED Consumer Protection through the call center number 600 54 5555, or the Twitter handle @Dubai_consumers.

Source: Arabian Business

Egypt Tackles Software Piracy, with Lowest Theft-rate in Middle East

CAIRO - The Government of Egypt announced that it is setting up a specialized digital forensic lab for Intellectual Property as part of its enforcement schemes of combating software piracy.

The new lab, the first of its kind in the MENA region, is mainly designed to resolve business software and internet-based piracy cases. It authentically recovers data from digital devices and unearths new fraud techniques.

The latest measures applied aim to enhance the investigative capabilities and ease the digital forensic evidence acquisition, analysis, and reporting.

The cutting-edge techniques and latest technologies employed in the lab devise a roadmap for judges, prosecutors, and lawyers. The practiced procedures enable them to distinguish the counterfeit products from the genuine and manage the intellectual property and digital piracy issues at hand.

The Information Technology Industry Development Agency, developing the IT industry in Egypt, hosts the lab at its premises. The agency is the executive IT arm of the Egyptian ICT ministry to enforce IPR related to software products and databases.

“Over the last couple of years, ITIDA’s IPR office has undertaken comprehensive actions to increase IP enforcement with all the stakeholders like the economic courts; i.e., judges and prosecutors, police officers, and copyright owners,” said Dr. Mohamed Hegazy, Egypt’s IPR Office Manager.

Aiming at developing the necessary skills, the fully dedicated IPR office has delivered extensive training and capacity-building programs in legal, technical and practical aspects during 2017 to more than 900 police

officers, 97 journalists from the National Broadcasting Authority, 125 employees from different software companies, in addition to 473 judges and prosecutors in the economic courts.

“We are committed to sustaining our success in combating IP infringement and expanding IP rights. The launch of this lab enables us to achieve our targets. Only in 2017, we have delivered technical expertise reports of 96 cases to the economic courts, registered 203 computer software programs and issued 267 licenses for the first time,” Hegazy added.

According to the latest BSA-IDC Global Software Piracy Study in 2016, the Egyptian piracy rate reached 61%, a ratio lower than most of competing countries and leading global outsourcing locations including Morocco (65 percent), the Philippines (67 percent) and Vietnam (78 percent).

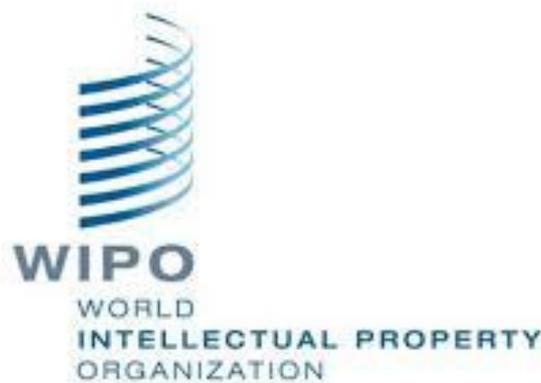
The Cabinet is preparing a data protection and privacy law draft. It has already agreed on cyber-crime law and awaits the Parliament’s approval to be enacted, according to Egypt’s state media.

Egypt is currently undergoing an unprecedented phase of development in all fields, which is largely attributed to sound policies, monetary reforms, and global partnerships.

The newly adopted policy represents a paradigm shift in intellectual property rules as it provides an alternate software-licensing model while developing a healthy eco-system for software production and innovation.

Source: The Arab Daily News





WIPO Cybersquatting Cases Reach New Record in 2017

GENEVA - Three industries – banking and finance, fashion, and internet and IT – accounted for nearly one-third of all cybersquatting disputes handled by WIPO’s Arbitration and Mediation Center in 2017 as trademark owners filed an all-time high of 3,074 WIPO cases under the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP).

According to WIPO, cybersquatting disputes relating to new generic Top-Level Domains (New gTLDs) accounted for more than 12% of WIPO’s 2017 caseload, which in total covered 6,370 domain names. Of all new gTLDs, registrations in .STORE, .SITE, and .ONLINE were the most-commonly disputed. With the addition in 2017 of .EU (European Union) and .SE (Sweden), 76 Country Code Top-Level Domain (ccTLD) registries have now designated WIPO’s dispute resolution service, and ccTLDs accounted for some 17% of WIPO filings in 2017.

WIPO Director General Francis Gurry said: “By abusing trademarks in the Domain Name System, cybersquatting undermines legitimate commerce and harms consumers. This is true especially where squatters use domain names to offer counterfeit goods or for phishing, as is seen in numerous WIPO

cases. The availability of the highly effective UDRP procedure is an indispensable support for the credibility of commerce on the Internet and for protection against fraudulent practices.”

The US remained the country where most WIPO UDRP cases originated, with 920 cases filed in 2017, followed by France (462), the U.K. (276), Germany (222), and Switzerland (143). In total, parties from 112 countries were involved in case filings in 2017. In 2017, WIPO appointed 298 panelists based in 45 countries, and administered proceedings in 15 different languages.

The top sectors of complainant activity were banking and finance (12% of all cases), fashion (11%), internet and IT (9%), heavy industry and machinery (8%), and food, beverages and restaurants, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, electronics, entertainment, and retail at 6% each.

In almost one-third of banking and finance-related decided cases filed in 2017, complainants asserted fraud, phishing or scam, the highest rate among all business sectors. In over one-third of fashion-related decided cases filed in 2017, complainants asserted counterfeiting, the second highest rate among all business sectors.

Philip Morris leads the list of filers – 91 cases – followed by Michelin, AB Electrolux, Andrey Ternovskiy (Chatroulette), Sanofi, Zions Bank, Carrefour, Virgin, Accor, and BASF and LEGO.

WIPO in 2017 launched an all-new edition of the WIPO Jurisprudential Overview. Covering over 100 topics, this essential WIPO case filing tool captures numerous developments in WIPO UDRP jurisprudence and the Domain Name System.

Since the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center administered the first UDRP case in 1999, total WIPO case filings passed the 39,000 mark in 2017, encompassing over 73,000 domain names.

Intellectual property disputes

In 2017, the WIPO Center received 52 mediation and arbitration cases and 84 good offices requests for different types of intellectual property (IP) disputes. In recent years patent-related disputes have been most common, followed by ICT, trademark, and copyright disputes. Europe remains the most frequent location of parties (51%), followed by North America, Asia, and Latin America. WIPO cases concerned such transactions as R&D agreements, distribution agreements, software agreements, film co-production agreements and non-disclosure agreements.

WIPO mediation was the most requested procedure, followed by expedited arbitration and arbitration. A growing share of these cases related to non-contractual disputes filed after the dispute had arisen, including proceedings that had been pending before national courts or before member state IP Offices.

In 2017, companies, including multinationals and SMEs, were the most frequent users of WIPO mediation and arbitration, followed by individuals, research institutions and universities, as well as copyright collecting societies.

Nearly 60% of cases involve parties which also use WIPO's PCT, Madrid or Hague Systems.

Building on similar cooperation previously established with other member states, the WIPO Center in 2017 commenced 12 new collaborations with national IP and Copyright Offices. Cooperation options include the establishment of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) frameworks, the organization of training and promotion, and case administration.

The WIPO Center published the Guidance on WIPO FRAND ADR, Guidance on WIPO FRAND ADR to facilitate the submission of disputes concerning fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) terms for standard-essential patents (SEPs). WIPO's World Intellectual Property Report 2017 noted that up to 35% of patents filed worldwide since 1990 relate to smartphones, with a relatively high share of smartphone patenting relating to SEPs. The Guidance on WIPO FRAND ADR covers elements for parties to consider in an ADR process, and includes tailored model submission agreements to refer a FRAND-related dispute to WIPO procedures as an alternative to court litigation.

Source: WIPO

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