

Updates from the Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA)

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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Introductions

- Chief Policy Officer
- Senior Level Attorneys
 - Nancy Omelko - International focus
 - Domestic focus
- IP Attachés
 - David Kellis – Mercosur, Suriname and French Guiana and Guyana (Rio de Janeiro)
 - Juli Schwartz – Eastern and Central China, Taiwan (Shanghai)
 - Hélène Liwinski – World Trade Organization (Geneva)

ICANN updates

- ICANN's (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) current and future efforts that implicate trademark-related matters include the following:
 - Access to, and disclosure of, WHOIS domain name registration record information.
 - Procedures to be followed in any future rounds discussing new generic top level domains (gTLDs). No timeline for new gTLDs has been set.
 - Protections for inter-governmental organizations' (IGOs') acronyms in gTLDs. The working group addressing the matter will issue a preliminary report for public comment in August 2021.
 - Review of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP), which will begin this fall.
- The ICANN72 23rd Annual General Meeting Virtual Policy Forum will be held on Oct. 23-28, 2021.



Update on Madrid-related developments at the World Intellectual Property Organization

- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) virtual seminar for advanced users
- Madrid Member Profiles Database Questionnaire
 - 178 questions
 - Comprehensive explanation of U.S. practice and procedure for use by Madrid System users
- Madrid System Yearly Review 2021
 - [wipo_pub_940_2021- Document Link](#)
 - Statistics from calendar year 2020

TM5

- TM5 Partners held an IT Expert Meeting earlier this week to discuss tech and the trademark registration processes. Topics included:
 - New emerging technologies (NET) and artificial intelligence (AI) to examine identifications of goods and services
 - Application of latest technologies to trademark workflows, including blockchain, AI, and machine learning
 - Telework IT initiatives to maintain examination quality while working remotely
- Working level meeting in September
- 2021 TM5 Annual Meeting scheduled for November 3-5

Requests for attestation

- The USPTO is working with Department of State
- OPIA and IP Attachés are gathering further information from, and exploring potential flexibilities with, various foreign IP offices
- We welcome information from stakeholders including about:
 - Whether there are certain jurisdictions in which delays in obtaining attestations pose particularly difficult challenges;
 - The circumstances in which attestations are most frequently required; and
 - The types of attestation documents that are required most frequently.

OPIA training – some highlights

- Exchange on Geographical Indications (GIs) with India
- Webinar on geographical indications with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)-USPTO
- Workshop on advanced trademark examination with Mercosur
 - Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay



Enforcement update



