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

Mary Critharis
Chief Policy Officer and Director for International Affairs
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

Combating Trafficking in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods
Report to the President of the United States

January 24, 2020