

**USPTO is holding a briefing and public discussion on the proposed World Intellectual  
Property Organization Treaty On the Protection of the Rights of Broadcasting  
Organizations**

**WHERE:** The briefing will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 11:00 a.m. The discussion will take place at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA in Madison Auditorium North.

**DISCUSSION:** The United States has been actively engaged for more than a decade in the deliberations of the World Intellectual Property Organization (“WIPO”) Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (“SCCR”) on a proposed treaty to protect broadcasting organizations against signal piracy. Such a treaty would update for the digital age the international framework for the protection of broadcasting organizations, which is set forth principally in the 1961 International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations (the “Rome Convention”). Information on the history and background of the proposed treaty is available on WIPO’s website. *See* <http://www.wipo.int/copyright/en/activities/broadcast.html>

At the last session of the SCCR, which took place on April 28-May 2 in Geneva, the U.S. delegation encouraged SCCR members to narrow the scope of rights under discussion, consistent with the terms of the 2007 WIPO General Assembly mandate to follow a “signal based” approach to updating protection of broadcasting and cablecasting organizations “in the

traditional sense.” In this context, the U.S. delegation has suggested that the discussions focus on a single right for broadcasters to authorize the simultaneous or near-simultaneous retransmission of signals. The U.S delegation also stressed the importance of developing a better, shared understanding within the Committee of how broadcasting and cablecasting organizations are currently using digital technology, along with greater factual clarity regarding how piracy of signals takes place.

In preparation for the next session of the SCCR, which is scheduled for June 30-July 4, 2014 in Geneva, the USPTO will provide a briefing on the discussions of the proposed treaty in the SCCR and invites interested parties, including broadcasters, cable companies, copyright owners, technology and telecommunications companies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and members of the public, to participate in the discussion, including the exchange of views and relevant information.

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** Interested parties may request to participate in the discussions by sending a response to Ben Golant at [Benjamin.golant@uspto.gov](mailto:Benjamin.golant@uspto.gov). The event will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requiring accommodation should communicate their needs to Hollis Robinson, Office of Policy and International Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Madison Building, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; telephone (571) 272-9300; e-mail [hollis.robinson@uspto.gov](mailto:hollis.robinson@uspto.gov), at least seven (7) business days prior to the event.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** For further information regarding the briefing and public discussion, please contact Ben Golant, Office of Policy and International Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Madison Building, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; telephone (571) 272-7070. E-mail questions should be sent to [Benjamin.golant@uspto.gov](mailto:Benjamin.golant@uspto.gov).

Please direct all media inquiries to the Office of the Chief Communications Officer, USPTO, at (571) 272-8400.

Sign up for the USPTO's Copyright Alert subscription at [enews.uspto.gov](http://enews.uspto.gov) to receive updates about this event.

For more information on the broadcast treaty working document being considered at WIPO, please see [http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/copyright/en/sccr\\_27/sccr\\_27\\_2\\_rev.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/copyright/en/sccr_27/sccr_27_2_rev.pdf).