AIPPI United States Group

(AIPPI-US Division of AIPLA)

Activity Report - 2018

Overview

The United States Group of AIPPI is a Division of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA). The U.S. Group has its own elected officers and Steering Committee, although it reports to and has the support of the leadership of AIPLA. The leadership of AIPPI-US is divided between the President of AIPPI-US who is also the President of AIPLA, and the Chair of AIPPI-US who handles all day-to-day operations of the national group. New Officers were elected in October 2018.

The principal activity of the AIPPI-US Division is global outreach, working within the framework of the AIPPI international organization toward international harmonization of intellectual property laws. Our members attend the international meetings of AIPPI, and various sub-committees visit from time to time with their counterpart AIPPI national groups in other countries, in cooperation with other AIPLA international committees that are part of the AIPLA Global Sector organization.

Membership Initiative

The AIPPI-US Division seeks to increase its membership by working within the AIPLA Global Sector Group, and to integrate all of its activities with the other international committees and international activities of the Global Sector Group. The AIPPI-US Division believes that all US members of AIPLA who have any interest in international practice should become members of the AIPPI-US Division, and is promoting the slogan “BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL IP LAWYER” as part of our “Join AIPPI” membership drive. At the end of 2018, the US Group had about 460 “active” members. Although this was a reduction from prior years, the reduction was primarily due to efforts to remove unpaid members from active status. However, there were 115 new members in 2018. It is anticipated that some “inactive” members will pay dues to reactivate their status and we will gain new members who desire to attend the London Congress. This remains a constant challenge to manage the membership rolls, because some members hold off determining whether to renew until later in the Spring when they decide whether or not to attend the Congress.

AIPPI-US has tried to build its membership from within the ranks of AIPLA. In the past, for building membership AIPPI-US has sponsored an open “Global Sector Reception,” which immediately followed the Annual Business Meeting of AIPPI-US Division during the Annual Meeting of AIPLA. This past year AIPPI-US held a smaller reception immediately following its annual meeting, and the “Global Sector Reception” was merged into the larger AIPLA Evening Dessert Reception to reach a wider audience. Other events to attract members in 2018 included an informal reception at the AIPLA Winter Meeting in January 2018, co-sponsoring a CLE session during the same meeting, and holding an open AIPPI-US Group meeting during
the AIPLA Spring Meeting in May 2018 to attract interest in the 2018 Cancun Congress. The President-Elect of AIPPI, Renata Righetti, attended these meetings and offered previews of the Cancun Congress.

**Group Officers and Leadership**

On Friday, October 23, 2018, the AIPPI-US Division conducted its Annual Meeting. The following slate of Officers and Steering Committee Members was elected:

**Officers elected for one-year terms:**

President (automatic): Sheldon Klein; President-Elect – Barbara Fiacco; Chair – Marc Richards; Vice-Chair – Chris Carani; Secretary – Kelly Hyndman; Treasurer – Dale Nelson, Immediate Past Chair – Maria Scungio

**Steering Committee Members elected for two-year terms:**

Monica Barone; Patrick Coyne, Joshua Goldberg, Sharon Israel, Andrea Kamage and Dennis Prahl, Phil Swain, and Kim Van Voorhis.

**Steering Committee Members having one year of term remaining:**

Ken Adamo, MayAnne Armstrong, Daniel Brownstone, Alexis Garcha, Bea Koempel-Thomas, Patrick Kole, and John Todaro

In addition, John Osha, who is a member of the AIPPI Bureau, automatically is entitled to a position on the Steering Committee as a result of his status as the Reporter General of the AIPPI Bureau.

**AIPPI-US Division Management**

The Officers and Steering Committee of the AIPPI-US Division meet regularly once a month and additionally for specially-called meetings as required to deal with time-sensitive issues. Chair Marc Richards circulates a draft agenda for review and comment before the scheduled meetings.

A new website for AIPPI-US was created on a new web platform provided to all of AIPLA. AIPPI-US Secretary, Kelly Hyndman, worked diligently with the AIPLA webmaster to transfer our website content from [www.aippi-us.org](http://www.aippi-us.org) to the new AIPPI-US microsite at [https://community.aipla.org/aippius/home](https://community.aipla.org/aippius/home). The new website is a continuing work in progress.

**AIPPI-US Division Interactions with Local/Regional IP Authorities**

AIPPI-US Division participated with the USPTO in the Design Day program on April 25, 2018, which was co-sponsored by AIPPI.

AIPPI-US, through its participation with AIPLA, distributes the AIPPI resolutions to the USPTO, the U.S. Copyright Office and other US IP Authorities. Members of AIPPI-US are also active with AIPLA and participate in meetings with leadership of the USPTO.
The AIPPI-US Division also expects that it may, from time to time, recommend that the AIPLA take positions in amicus briefs on issues that may affect areas in which its members may have an interest, such as international harmonization of intellectual property laws.

**Building the Value of AIPPI-US Division Membership**

**AIPPI 2018 Cancun Congress**

More than 90 AIPPI-US Division members and non-members attended the Cancun Congress. The Award of Merit was presented to US member Lawrence Welch at the Closing Dinner.

For the Cancun Congress, based on its 460 members, AIPPI-US Division had 11 formal delegates, plus its President, as voting members in the Executive Committee meetings.

There were 14 Panel Sessions and Pharma Sessions that included U.S. speakers.

Luncheon speakers from the U.S. included Simon Tam with a performance by his band, “The Slants,” and Maria Holtmann, Director of International Programs of the USPTO.

The social activities for the US group members at the Cancun Congress began with what has quickly become a strong tradition for the AIPPI-US Division - an informal get-together for the US delegation on the opening night, just before the Opening Ceremony. AIPPI-US Division Vice Chair Marc Richards identified and arranged for the meeting place in the lobby bar of the Fiesta Americana Hotel. Most US attendees were able to attend.

**AIPPI-US Division Participation in AIPLA International Practice Committee Trips**

The AIPPI-US Division works throughout the year to coordinate its activities with the various international practice committees of AIPLA. AIPPI-US Division representatives participated in: the AIPLA IP Practice in Japan Committee trip, including meeting with AIPPI-Japan; the AIPLA IP Practice in China Committee trip to Beijing and Chengdu, including meeting with AIPPI-China; the AIPLA IP Practice in Europe Committee trip to London, Paris, Venice and Munich, including meeting with AIPPI-UK, AIPPI-France, and AIPPI-Germany; and the AIPLA IP Practice in Latin America Committee’s trip to Argentina and Chile. Members of AIPPI-US also joined with the AIPLA IP Practice in Israel Committee to attend the AIPPI Israel regional meeting in April 2018.

**AIPPI International Standing Committee Opportunities**

AIPPI has over 20 international Standing Committees. The AIPPI Reporter General invited nominations of additional US members to the various AIPPI International Standing Committees.

The AIPPI Standing Committees as of the end of 2018 included the following members from the AIPPI-US Division:

- **ADR:** Steve Bauer, Co-Chair, and Cheryl Agris
- **Attorney Client Privilege:** Jeff Lewis and Dave Hill
- **Commercialization of IP:** Michael Connor, Chair, and Andrea Kamage
- **Copyright:** John Carson, Dale Nelson, and Kevin Tottis
- **Designs:** Chris Carani, Chair, Pina Campagna, and Subroto Bose
Development and Intellectual Property: Michael Martinez de Andino, Secretary
Enforcement: Ken Adamo, Chair, Kristin Whidby, and Tina Chappell
Free Trade Agreements: Sharon Israel
Geographical Indications: Robert Sacoff and Patrick Kole
Information Technology and Internet: Dan Brownstone and Nandu Talwalkar
IP Office Practice & Procedures: Maria Cunningham, Chair
IP and Green Technology: David Postolski
IP and Genetic Resources/Traditional knowledge: David Moore and DeAnn Smith
Patents: Andrew Meunier, Secretary, Marc Richards, and Robert O'Connell
Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT): Chris Scherer, and Loren Hulse
Pharma and Biotechnology: John Todaro, Chair, Li Feng, and Joseph Snyder; Peter Ludwig, Chair Biotech Sub-Committee
Piracy and Counterfeiting: Damian Wasserbauer, Secretary, and Naresh Kilaru
Standards and Patents: David Long, Jeffrey Gluck, and Monica Barone,
Trademarks: Dennis Prahl
Trade Secrets: Linda LeComte (Vice-Chair), James Aquilino
TRIPS: Kelly Hyndman and Michael Stewart

AIPPI International Statutory Committees

AIPPI has six Statutory Committees. In 2018, there were US members active on each of the committees:
Communications: Joshua Goldberg, Chair
Finance: David Hill
Membership: Peter Schechter
Nominating: Phil Swain
Programme: Manisha Desai
Venue Selection: John Osha (Ex-Offico)

AIPPI International Bureau Advisory Committees

Amicus Committee: Jeffrey Lewis

New Initiatives for 2019

Formation of 2019 London Congress Study Committees
The AIPPI-US Division has formed the Study Committees to prepare the US reports on the four 2019 London Congress Study Questions. There are between 4 and 10 members on each committee.

San Francisco 2021 Organizing Committee

San Francisco, California has been selected as the site of the 2021 Congress. AIPPI-US Division is forming a Congress Coordinating Committee to assist in planning that meeting.

Prepared by AIPPI-US Chair, Marc Richards, July 2, 2019.