



IPRC CONNECTIONS

Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center

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DHS releases report on combatting trafficking in counterfeit and pirated goods



The National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPRC Center) provided the backdrop for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to release its report in response to President Trump's Memorandum on Combatting Trafficking in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods.

The 54-page report outlines a series of recommendations and actions that can be taken by both the federal government and industry partners to combat the illicit trade epidemic.

IPRC Center Director Steve Francis introduced DHS acting Secretary Chad Wolf, acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Matthew Albence, acting Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Mark Morgan, and White House Director of Trade and Manufacturing, Dr. Peter Navarro.

"Safeguarding intellectual property rights underpins every aspect of our nation; from the health and safety perspective to jobs and the economy to the military and the national security of the United States," Francis said. "Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) has been leading these investigations around the globe." The full report can be found [here](#).

HSI, Grace Farms Foundation sign agreement to combat forced labor

HSI's Global Trade Investigations Division has announced a partnership with the Grace Farms Foundation to advance their shared missions of disrupting and combating forced labor around the world.

The two entities signed a memorandum of understanding which outlines how they will work together to share expertise through meetings and trainings. The goal will be to improve criminal investigations and communication networks that can lead to successful prosecutions of perpetrators engaged in labor trafficking.

"Forced labor is the most common element of modern slavery, and often affects the most vulnerable, excluded population groups in the world. Sadly, this type of exploitation spans across multiple industries and sectors and must be dismantled using a multifaceted approach," said IPRC Center Director Steve Francis.

"The public-private partnership is the most promising model for achieving substantive results in disrupting transnational organized crime syndicates involved in modern slavery, gender-based violence and wildlife trafficking," said Grace Farms Foundation's Chief Accountability Officer and Justice Initiative Director Rod Khattabi. "In partnering with HSI, a premier investigative agency, and its Global Trade Investigations Division, we will maximize our assets in achieving successful outcomes."



Did you know...

Last year, collaborative enforcement efforts led by HSI and CBP resulted in the seizure of nearly 285,000 counterfeit sports-related items worth an estimated \$24.2 million. For fiscal year (FY) 2019, HSI nationally seized counterfeit goods totaling an estimated manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of more than \$560 million.

HSI assists North Carolina task force in flea market sweep of counterfeits

HSI and the Greensboro Police Department assisted the North Carolina Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force on an enforcement sweep at a Greensboro flea market, leading to the arrest of five individuals and the seizure of counterfeits with a street value of \$460,000.

The task force discovered knock-off designer apparel and accessories including Air Jordan shoes, UGG boots, Rolex watches, Gucci handbags, and pirated CDs and DVDs.

The task force, created in 2004, has investigated more than 5,500 cases and taken more than \$150 million in counterfeits off the streets. Here's [more](#).



Defendants in jewelry probe face up to five years in prison, fines up to \$250,000

Three defendants face sentencing in March following an HSI-assisted investigation of an international conspiracy to import knock-off jewelry from the Philippines and misrepresent it as Native-American. Sentencing for all three was set after entering guilty pleas for their roles in the fraudulent scheme.

The Indian Arts and Crafts Act prohibits the offer or display for sale, or the sale of any goods in a manner that falsely suggests that it is Indian produced, an Indian product, or the product of a particular Indian and Indian tribe. The law is designed to prevent products from being marketed as "Indian made," when the products are not, in fact, made by Indians. It covers all Indian and Indian-style traditional and contemporary arts and crafts produced after 1935, and broadly applies to the marketing of arts and crafts by any person in the United States. Read more [here](#).

Group cites information sharing as key in IP enforcement



A delegation of member representatives from the International Chamber of Commerce Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy (ICC-BASCAP) visited the IPR Center to learn more about the work of the Center and its 25 domestic and international partners.

Former IPR Center Director Bruce Foucart led the delegation, accompanied by brand protection officials, including Lora Moffatt from Chanel, Todd Burns from Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Suchi Somesaker from Western Digital and Bart Rankin from the law firm of Baker McKenzie.

The discussions centered on a variety of topics including the HSI e-commerce strategy and enhancing collaboration with third party platforms in the private sector as well as payment processors and express

shippers. They also expressed an interest in establishing closer relationships with law enforcement contacts worldwide and expanding the use of the IPR Center's "Report IP Theft" widget to report IP theft and brand infringement.

Illinois man faces 13 years in federal prison for trafficking fake pills on "Dark Web"

An Illinois man has been sentenced to 13 years in prison and ordered to pay more than \$2 million he gained in profits for trafficking more than four million counterfeit Xanax pills throughout the U.S. and laundering the proceeds. Prosecutors testified he purchased controlled substances from abroad to make the counterfeit pills in his unsanitary garage. The pills were manufactured to make them identical in appearance to prescription Xanax. He then shipped the pills nationwide in quantities ranging from 1,000 pills per package up to one million. Read more [here](#).



The IPR Center encourages companies and private industry organizations to help fight (IP) theft and trade law violations by displaying the "Report IP Theft" button on websites that will link users with a form to detail their allegations. For more information on how to obtain this tool, please visit our website: <https://www.iprcenter.gov>.

For more information on these stories, or to submit information for stories in future editions of *IPRC Connections*, please contact Chuck Jackson, charles.e.jackson@ice.dhs.gov, or (703) 603-3941. In the meantime, you can follow us on Twitter: [@IPRCenter](https://twitter.com/IPRCenter)