



# IPRC CONNECTIONS

*Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center*

**JANUARY 2018**

## **IPR Center set to mark a decade of excellence and achievement on World IP Day**



### **World IP Day**

**Thursday, April 26, 2018**

*featuring an*

**OPEN HOUSE**

*and*

**10 Year Anniversary Celebration**

*at the*

**National Intellectual Property Rights  
Coordination Center**

**2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington Va.**

**22202**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

*For more information, visit*

[www.iprcenter.com](http://www.iprcenter.com)

The National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) will observe its 10-year anniversary with an open house celebration this spring at its facility in Arlington, Va.

The event on April 26 will coincide with the annual observance of World IP Day, a day to learn about the role that intellectual property rights such as industrial designs, trademarks, and copyright play in encouraging innovation and creativity.

The event will highlight the many collaborative initiatives coordinated by the Center over the years with its 23 partner agencies, industry representatives and

stakeholders in the public and private sectors in the fight against counterfeit activity. Please save the date and watch for more information on the IPR Center's 10-year anniversary celebration.

## **2018 goals and priorities increase focus on IP and trade law enforcement**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) has released its goals and priorities for fiscal year 2018 aimed at securing the homeland from transnational criminal organizations, while fulfilling the requirements of presidential executive orders that include violations of trade and customs laws. ICE HSI Deputy Executive Associate Director Derek Benner detailed HSI's 2018 operational priorities.



"HSI will leverage its expansive authorities, experience and partnerships beyond our borders, at the border, and inside our borders to ensure that criminal organizations are investigated and dismantled," Benner wrote. "HSI will focus on expanding our capacity and expertise to conduct effective trade fraud investigations and expand our global efforts to combat trade fraud including a coordinated effort utilizing partner law enforcement agencies, international partners, non-government organizations and the legitimate trade community to identify, disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal organizations who exploit global trade systems to further their illicit activities."

Priority programs include anti-dumping and countervailing duty evasion, forced labor, textile and tobacco smuggling, wildlife and environmental crimes, and intellectual property enforcement. All ICE HSI trade fraud programs are housed at the IPR Center and are supported by more than 185 ICE/HSI field offices throughout the United States, and 62 overseas locations in 46 countries. HSI's investigative and enforcement initiatives and operations target cross-border criminal organizations that exploit America's legitimate travel, trade, financial and immigration systems for their illicit purposes.

### ***Did You Know...***

UL (Underwriters Laboratories) tested 400 counterfeit iPhone adapters; all but three failed basic safety tests and were determined to be fire and shock hazards. According to the UL test results, twelve were so poorly designed and constructed, that they posed a risk of lethal electrocution to the user. You can learn more about counterfeit iPhone adapters and the dangers they pose by visiting the UL website: [www.ul.com/brandprotection](http://www.ul.com/brandprotection)

## IPR Center hosts German delegation

The IPR Center hosted a group of German police and customs officials assigned to Washington, D.C. as attachés to learn more about the work of the Center and its 23 member partner agencies. Following an IPR Center presentation, the group discussed differences between how the U.S. and Germany apply law enforcement resources to address counterfeiters. Representatives from INTERPOL and the State Department participated in the visit, sponsored by CBP's Office of International Affairs. The visit paves the way for future meetings with police and customs attachés from France, Switzerland, Hungary, and other European countries. (photo l-to-r: John Holbrooke, CBP Office of International Affairs; Stephan Jacobi, German Ministry of the Interior; Mike Dolan, CBP Office of Trade/CBP IPR Center liaison; Ralph Dörmann, German Customs attaché; Petra Mohn, German Customs attaché; Thorsten Kunst, German Federal Investigations)



## Officials launch Intellectual Property Law Enforcement Coordinator Network



Christopher Merriam, deputy chief for Intellectual Property at the Department of Justice (DOJ) Computer Crime & Intellectual Property Section addressed the launch of the Intellectual Property Law Enforcement Coordinator (IPLEC) network in Washington, D.C. The network is designed to ensure that experienced U.S. prosecutors are located in high-impact regions to enhance the capacity of individual countries to investigate and prosecute IP crimes, and to develop regional networks to more effectively deter and detect IP crimes. DOJ teamed up with the Department of State to make the announcement.

The program has grown to a network of five prosecutors in Abuja, Nigeria; Bucharest, Romania; São Paulo, Brazil; Bangkok, Thailand; and Hong Kong S.A.R. The DOJ IPLEC network is committed to

working closely with ICE HSI and the U.S. Patent and Trade Office in implementing training programs in these regions.

## Counterfeits and consumer safety tips dominate briefing on Capitol Hill

IPR Center Deputy Director William Ross joined government officials, business professionals, brand owners and intellectual property representatives to brief the Congressional Trademark Caucus. The briefing, entitled "Counterfeits and Consumer Safety During the Holiday Shopping Season," was led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Center and the International Trademark Association (INTA), and highlighted public and private sector efforts to address online counterfeiting. The photo shows John Leonard, executive director, Trade Policy and Programs, Office of Trade, CBP; William Ross, deputy director, IPR Center; Brian Winterfeldt, INTA board member; Rebecca Mond, senior director, federal government relations, Toy Industry Association; Christina Mitropoulos, government relations representative, American Apparel and Footwear Association. (photo by Courtney Paul, U.S. Chamber of Commerce)



## Avoiding online shopping scams is just a mouse click away

Although the holiday shopping rush is over, the IPR Center warns consumers that online scams will continue into the new year and offers a few tips for avoiding them. For example, remembering to hover over hyperlinks and think before you click. A common phishing tactic during the holidays is a phony email saying an order has shipped. For a complete list of tips, please visit the IPR Center website: [www.iprcenter.gov](http://www.iprcenter.gov)



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](mailto:charles.e.jackson@ice.dhs.gov), or (703) 603-3941.