



IPRC CONNECTIONS

Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center

NOVEMBER 2017

IPR Center presents e-commerce symposium

The National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) hosted the 2017 IPR Center Symposium: Solving the E-Commerce Puzzle on November 15 at its facilities in Arlington, Va. The day-long symposium featured a keynote address by White House IP Enforcement Coordinator Vishal Amin, who was also joined at the podium by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Acting Executive Associate Director Derek Benner and IPR Center Acting Director Nick Annan. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Trade Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner Cynthia Whittenburg also addressed the symposium along with Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Deputy Assistant Director J.C. Hacker. The program presented six, 45-minute panel discussions guided by a moderator and panelists who presented a variety of topics designed to address issues of mutual interest and concern.

- ✓ A Model For Pulling All The Puzzle Pieces Together
- ✓ An Ever-Changing Marketplace With Endless Opportunities
- ✓ Establishing Safeguards To Protect Your Money
- ✓ Moving A Maze Of Merchandise Trending From Dockside To Doorstep
- ✓ How Industry Is Changing The Way It Does Business
- ✓ Challenges Facing Enforcement



The symposium began at 9 a.m. in the IPR Center auditorium and concluded with closing remarks by IPR Center leadership. There were displays at the IPR Center where attendees learned more about the 23 federal and international partner agencies that comprise the IPR Center team. (*Editor's note: The December edition of IPRC Connections will feature additional coverage of the symposium.*)

IPR Center names new acting director



The National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) has announced the appointment of Nick Annan as acting director of the IPR Center, succeeding Mathew Etre who served as the acting director until his retirement last month. Annan is the special agent in charge for Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Atlanta, Georgia, an area of responsibility that includes 11 offices in the states of Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Prior to his assignment in Atlanta, Annan served in a number of field and headquarters leadership positions including HSI San Diego, where he served as the deputy special agent in charge with oversight responsibilities involving more than 250 law enforcement officers and personnel. Additionally, he has served as deputy attaché in Rome, Italy. Annan began his law enforcement career in 1997 with the U.S. Customs Service in San Diego, Calif. In a 2005 interview conducted after being named special agent in charge in Atlanta, Annan was asked about his secrets of success. "My strongest leadership skill is my ability to relate to people," Annan said. "I've been fortunate

enough to work for some of the best leaders in this agency and learn from them." Annan revealed another secret: being humble. "There are over 6,000 agents in HSI and only 26 of us have the good fortune of being special agents in charge. I don't take the enormity of those odds for granted and I am blessed to have this opportunity."

IPR Center attends Law Enforcement -Intellectual Property Industry Meeting

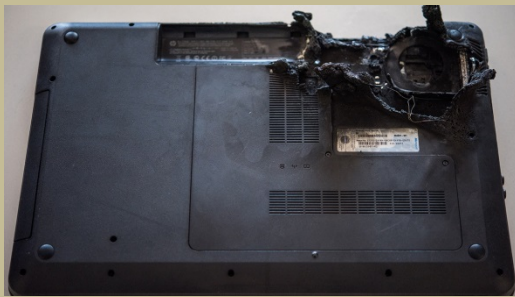
The IPR Center participated in the 11th Annual Law Enforcement and Intellectual Property (IP) Industry Meeting in Washington D.C. The meeting was hosted by the Department of Justice Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section, and featured a keynote address by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein who was also joined by Acting Assistant Attorney General Ken Blanco, ICE Acting Deputy Director Peter Edge and representatives from the FBI, CBP, and the Food and Drug Administration also attended. The meeting was designed to enable members of the IP industry and senior law enforcement officials to communicate openly about IP theft and emerging trends.

Monthly profile features Department of State IPR Center liaison

As part of its ongoing efforts to showcase the work of the IPR Center, IPRC Connections is taking a closer look at its 23-member partner agencies by focusing on each agency's liaison with the IPR Center and the role each one plays in the various operations. This month features U.S. Department of State Liaison Officer Joseph Giblin. At the Department of State International Intellectual Property Enforcement Office, Giblin has a portfolio which includes fighting against trafficking in counterfeit goods and piracy of intellectual property (IP), as well as researching copyright and geographic indications issues. Commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers upon graduation from Fordham University in New York City, he served in the U.S. Army Reserves while attending New York Law School. Transferring in the reserves to the Judge Advocate Generals Corps following law school, Giblin practiced law in New York City until 2002, when he volunteered for active duty. His U.S. Army tours included the Pentagon; Fort Dix Legal Station, assisting mobilizing and demobilizing troops; and at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, providing legal assistance to wounded warriors and their family members. Joe's highest military award, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, was for his service in Baghdad, Iraq, working for Multinational Forces - Iraq from 2004-2005. Joe retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel in 2009, the same year he joined the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer. Joe's first tour with the State Department was in Washington, D.C., with the Bureau of Economics, in Bilateral Trade Affairs, followed by two overseas tours in Bogota, Colombia and in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Joe's current tour has brought him back to Washington, D.C., where he is enjoying his work in intellectual property enforcement.



Victim impact stories help illustrate real life dangers of counterfeits



An important function of the IPR Center's Outreach & Training Section is the gathering of victim impact stories as part of a "library" of them that allows field agents and others to access them for use in their community outreach efforts worldwide. These stories are gathered from credible news organizations such as the Associated Press and widely distributed to newspaper and broadcast news affiliates. According to published reports in Boston, a man was sentenced for trafficking in counterfeit prescription medications. On the west coast, counterfeit pills that were being sold on the streets of San Francisco were blamed in the deaths of three people and injury to a fourth, according to authorities. In Minnesota, a man was

allegedly hospitalized for more than a week after being badly injured by a counterfeit phone charger he purchased on the internet. And, a broadcast news report in Michigan claimed a teen was left partially blind in one eye after wearing a pair of counterfeit costume contacts. Counterfeit batteries and battery packs can also pose grave danger (see photo) when used in laptops and other electronic devices. These stories are an invaluable tool to help us heighten public awareness about the dangers of counterfeit goods and the threats of injury and/or death to consumers. The IPR Center welcomes stories detailing the harm to consumers and encourages industry to share them in an effort to heighten public awareness for consumers to avoid counterfeit goods.

Partnership with MSU shows value of educational research

IPR Center Deputy Director William Ross addressed the Michigan State University (MSU) Anti-Counterfeiting and Product Protection (A-CAPP) strategy summit and board meeting. The MSU A-CAPP program has been a partner with the IPR Center offering access to research and educational efforts in support of intellectual property enforcement. Ross also serves as the ICE HSI liaison to the A-CAPP Industry Advisory Board.



Congressional Trademark Caucus meets to discuss timely issues

IPR Center Deputy Director William Ross spoke at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Congressional Trademark Caucus briefing at the U.S. Capitol. Representatives John Ratcliffe (R-Texas) and Ted Deutch (D-Florida), both co-chairs of the Caucus, provided opening remarks for the event which also featured various speakers from the private sector and other government organizations.



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.