



# IPRC CONNECTIONS

*Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center*

NOVEMBER 2018

## IPR Center expands international partnerships, adding City of London Police



The City of London Police has become the fifth international law-enforcement agency to partner with the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) during the signing of an agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) to enhance collaboration in the fight against intellectual property theft. IPR Center Director Alex Khu and City of London Police Commissioner Ian Dyson pledged to work together to tackle the illegal importation and distribution of counterfeit goods that threaten the health and safety of consumers, wreak havoc on local and national economies, and fund criminal organizations involved in various illicit activities.

"The success of the IPR Center in combatting intellectual property theft and trade fraud is directly tied to our multi-agency partnerships," Khu said. "Today, I'm pleased to announce the City of London Police has officially joined the IPR Center as an international law enforcement partner." London joins the Mexican Revenue Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, INTERPOL and Europol as international members. The partnership with the City of London Police brings to 24 the total number of agencies aligned with the IPR Center.

## IPR Center Symposium explores social media opportunities

The IPR Center annual symposium attracted more than 100 representatives from industry, anti-counterfeiting organizations, academia and law-enforcement agencies from across the country to discuss this year's theme, "*Leveraging the Influence of Social Media*." IPR Center Director Alex Khu and Deputy Director William Ross delivered welcoming remarks before introducing ICE HSI Deputy Executive Associate Director Alysa Erichs.

"Social media is pervasive in our society, and for many age groups has become the "go-to" source for news, information and even education," Erichs said. "Both government and the private sector can better use social media platforms to inform and educate consumers and assist in the fight against IP crimes."



Erichs acknowledged Director Khu, recently named as IPR Center director, for his leadership that helped clear the way for the establishment of the Global Trade Investigations Division, HSI's e-commerce strategy, and other major efforts that maintain intellectual property rights and trade law enforcement among the agency's highest priorities. Her remarks were followed by John Leonard, Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) executive director of Trade Policy and Programs in the Office of Trade; and Steven Shapiro, FBI IPR Center unit chief. Stakeholders from Michigan State University, National Crime Prevention Council, International Trademark Association and other non-government associations presented and had key roles during the event.

An opening presentation entitled "The Power of Social Networks" was followed by an interactive panel discussion that focused on using social media as a public education tool. The event also featured presentations by nationally recognized social media experts in media and marketing who revealed their secrets of social marketing success and how their successful strategies can be easily duplicated within business, industry and law enforcement organizations.

## ICE HSI delivers keynote address at brand protection summit



ICE HSI Executive Associate Director Derek Benner provided keynote remarks at the 2018 International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition's Latin America Regional Brand Protection Summit which was held in partnership with Underwriter's Laboratory and INTERPOL in Orlando, Florida. There were 225 attendees representing nearly 30 countries. The summit allowed for valuable information sharing and for brands and industry experts to connect with government officials throughout Latin America. ICE HSI brought two dozen front line law enforcement personnel from eight different Latin American countries as part of their Transnational Criminal Investigative Units program, thereby promoting teamwork between HSI and their host countries, as well as exposure to brand partners for future collaboration. Benner stressed the importance of effective partnerships in the fight against counterfeit products entering the global marketplace.

## ICE HSI Rhode Island probe leads to half-million dollar seizure of counterfeit goods

A recent multiagency intellectual property rights investigation resulted in federal convictions of two Rhode Island men on counterfeit goods trafficking charges and the seizure of more than \$500,000 worth of counterfeit goods. Agents assigned to ICE HSI in Providence went on to coordinate an extraordinary effort that resulted in the donation of half of the seized items to a non-governmental organization for use in humanitarian relief efforts. Here's more: [ICE HSI Rhode Island](#)

## New York woman sentenced for trafficking more than \$3 million worth of counterfeits

A Flushing, New York, woman has been sentenced to 18 months in prison for her plan to distribute counterfeit Nike sneakers, Louis Vuitton handbags, and other phony merchandise that was shipped into the Port of Newark, New Jersey. ICE HSI Special Agent in Charge Brian Michael coordinated the joint investigation with CBP. Visit: [Counterfeit Footwear](#)

## \$50 million worth of counterfeit athletic footwear seized in Colombia

ICE HSI and CBP combined efforts to identify and seize 10 containers arriving at the port of Buenaventura, Colombia with athletic footwear subject to copyright infringement from top U.S. name brands such as Nike, New Balance, Adidas and others. If authentic, the merchandise would have been worth an estimated \$50 million.

"Counterfeit merchandise threatens both the U.S. and Colombian economies and funds organizations involved in violent crime," said HSI Attaché Luis Sierra. "ICE HSI is committed to working with CBP and our law enforcement partners in the region to protect American jobs and people by stemming the illicit flow of these types of merchandise in the Andean Region."

The shipment originated in China with false labeling. The seizure was part of Operation San José, a joint investigative initiative with ICE HSI in Cartagena and Bogota; CBP-Container Security Initiative; Transnational Criminal Investigative Unit in Colombia; the National Directorate of Tax and Customs Authority; the Port of Cartagena; and the IPR Center.

## IPR Center welcomes personnel to enhance its mission



ICE HSI Special Agent Julie Hilario has joined the IPR Center as the national program manager for Operation Engine Newity. Prior to her arrival, Julie served in the ICE HSI Washington/Virginia field office, where she primarily focused on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and commercial fraud cases.

ICE HSI Special Agent Kevin Martin is the IPR Center's new program manager of the pharmaceutical and cosmetic programs. He began his career as a special agent with U.S. Customs in 2001. Among his many assignments, Kevin has also served in the DHS Office of Legislative Affairs.

## Did you know...

In fiscal year 2017, HSI arrested 457 individuals, obtained 288 indictments and received 242 convictions related to support of IP enforcement operations. Additionally, combined efforts between ICE and CBP led to 34,143 IPR seizures with a value of \$1.38 billion.



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. In the meantime, please follow us on Twitter: @IPRCenter.

