



# IPRC CONNECTIONS

*Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center*

NOVEMBER 2019

## 'Future of IP enforcement' remarks focus on academia



National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) Director Steve Francis, a Michigan State alumnus, delivered a keynote address at Michigan State University's Center for Anti-Counterfeiting and Product Protection's (A-CAPP) Annual Brand Protection Strategy Summit in Lansing. The Center promoted the event as "a collaborative space for brand owners, law enforcement, and academia to strategize about the issues and their solutions in a forum that facilitates open, collaborative, meaningful, and participant-led conversations on brand protection."

"We recognize the A-CAPP Center and its outstanding role in supporting brand protection efforts worldwide," Francis told attendees. He was joined by Jason Kosofsky, a senior global brand protection investigator with Ford Motor Company, for a

question and answer session, followed by a series of panel discussions on risk assessment, evolution and trends in the online space, strategies and case studies.

## INTERPOL convenes Intellectual Property (IP) Crime Conference

IPR Center Director Francis also delivered the keynote at INTERPOL's 13th International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property (IP) Crime Conference in Cape Town, South Africa. More than 500 senior law enforcement officials, security and industry experts from more than 80 countries met to shape effective enforcement strategies. INTERPOL and the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, South African Police Service co-hosted the two-day event in partnership with Underwriters Laboratories and the International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition.

## Training seminars in China seek to strengthen IPR enforcement

IPR Center and HSI Beijing representatives met with the director and staff of the Ministry of Public Security's Food and Drug Crime Investigation Department (FDCID) to discuss ongoing partnerships, information-sharing and joint investigations. IPR Center personnel also met with Alibaba Vice President Matt Bassiur and his IP enforcement team at the Alibaba headquarters in Hangzhou, where he explained Alibaba's IP enforcement initiatives, ongoing developments, and programs targeting counterfeit goods being sold on their platform.

IPR Center representatives also participated in the ICE Best Practices Exchange Seminar in Shanghai. The seminar focused on financial investigations, tobacco and IPR enforcement, and included panel discussions on online enforcement and public safety issues.



## General Motors goes the extra mile to report IP theft



General Motors (GM) has become the latest company to join the growing list of businesses, civic and community organizations, and government agencies to proudly display the IPR Center's "Report IP Theft" widget on its website.

GM Global Brand Protection Manager Robert Stewart signed a use agreement clearing the way for the automaker to use the online tool to help facilitate public reporting of violations of intellectual property rights. GM is an active member of the Automotive Anti-Counterfeiting Council – an automotive association composed of representatives from North American vehicle manufacturers – that was created in 2015 with the support of the IPR Center to encourage collaboration among automakers that strives to eliminate counterfeit automotive components that could harm consumers.

## IPR Center joins HSI Nairobi for IP training workshop in Kenya



The Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)-led IPR Center, in coordination with HSI Nairobi, provided intellectual property enforcement training in Mombasa, Kenya for customs officials, police investigators, regulatory officials and prosecutors from Kenya, the Seychelles, Tanzania and Uganda.

The workshop featured HSI case study presentations on pharmaceuticals, cellular phones, food products, tobacco and basic methods to combat transnational cyber-enabled intellectual property crime.

Industry representatives from Colgate-Palmolive, Diageo, Kraft Foods Group, Pfizer and Syngenta delivered presentations outlining their enforcement efforts and collaboration with law enforcement to combat counterfeiting and illicit trade. Participants also visited the Port of Mombasa Kipevu Container Terminal where they were given brief presentations by Kenya Port Authority personnel, followed by a tour of the port facilities.

## New Delhi looks to IPR Center to discuss similar facility in India

The IPR Center and HSI New Delhi participated in the annual International Trademark Association's (INTA) brand protection event in New Delhi, India. The theme for this year's event, "*Made in India: Evolving Trends in Brand Protection*," brought more than 200 participants from private industry, the government of India and academia together to discuss trends and challenges surrounding brand protection in India.

IPR Center Program Manager Elliott Harbin and HSI New Delhi Assistant Attaché Uday Devineni talked about the evolution and recent successes of the Center and the viability of a similar center in India.



The Indian National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy of 2016 was adopted to strengthen IP awareness, enforcement, commercialization, and administration, and to facilitate an environment of innovation. As such, the INTA panel that included HSI participation also discussed the need to establish an IPR center in India, and the importance of having such a centralized coordinating agency as exemplified in the success over the years of the HSI-led IPR Center in the United States.

## FBI welcomes newest member to its IP team

Monte Frazier joins the FBI's Intellectual Property Rights Unit at the IPR Center as a supervisory special agent providing strategic guidance, investigative support, and outreach to FBI field offices, and industry partners. Prior to his arrival at the IPR Center, he was assigned to the FBI's San Francisco Division, where he was responsible for investigating computer intrusion matters for the entire San Francisco Bay Area. Frazier also served as an assistant legal attaché in Taipei, Taiwan, investigating transnational organized crime, parental kidnapping, and cyber-enabled criminal activity.

## Counterfeit refrigerator water filters seized in California

Customs and Border Protection officers in Los Angeles seized more than 5,000 counterfeit refrigerator water filters shipped into the U.S. from China. The items were seized after Machinery Center import specialists confirmed that the filters infringed Brita, GE, Frigidaire, PUR and NSF certification protected trademarks. Here's the full story: [Frig Filters](#)

**Did you know...** that 60% of online searches for pharmaceutical drugs lead to fake medicines, putting consumers at risk of buying fake products, according to new research by brand protection provider Incopro.



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, you can follow us on Twitter: [@IPRCenter](#)