



IPRC CONNECTIONS

Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center

OCTOBER 2017

ICE-led IPR Center co-hosts 2017 INTERPOL IP Conference in New York City



The 11th Annual International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property (IP) Crime Conference was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City last month. The National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center), in partnership with Underwriters Laboratories Inc., and the International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition co-hosted the conference with a theme of “*Uniting Nations for the Next Decade.*” It was the first time that the conference was held in the United States and the first time Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has co-hosted. More than 600 senior police leaders, government officials, and security and industry experts attended from 60 countries around the world. The conference provided a forum to gather public and private sector organizations to share best practices, develop new tools, and create stronger partnerships. The conference allowed attendees to collaborate on issues of mutual interest and concern involving how to combat transnational organized IP crime, promote safety worldwide and develop joint initiatives. The photo banner shows the opening ceremony along with ICE Acting Deputy Director Peter Edge who delivered the keynote address following welcoming remarks by IPR Center Deputy Director William Ross.

HSI New York hosts annual A2C2 conference

In response to the rising threat of counterfeit automotive equipment manufactured and sold to end users in the United States, ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) - New York hosted the Automotive Anti-Counterfeiting Council’s (A2C2) annual conference. Working closely with the IPR Center, the conference was established as collaboration among automakers and their partners to eliminate counterfeit automotive components that could harm U.S. consumers. A2C2 offers training for local and federal law enforcement agencies, a collaboration that helps guide important counterfeit investigations and provides crucial support for those efforts.



Europol convenes IP crime conference in Belgium

IPR Center Deputy Director William Ross attended the 2017 Europol IP Crime Conference in Antwerp, Belgium. The theme for this year’s conference – co-hosted by the Belgian Customs Authority in partnership with Underwriters Laboratories and the International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition – was “*Innovative Strategies for Effective Enforcement.*” The conference included plenaries, workshops and exhibits that highlighted the most recent innovations in IPR enforcement strategies.

New York man admits trafficking more than \$2.5 million in counterfeit footwear

A Staten Island, New York, man has admitted his plan to distribute more than \$2.5 million of counterfeit UGG-brand boots that were shipped into the Port of Newark, Acting U.S. Attorney William E. Fitzpatrick announced. Shi Wei Zheng, 42, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge John Michael Vazquez in Newark federal court to an information charging him with one count of trafficking in counterfeit goods. Zheng was originally arrested and charged by complaint in March 7, 2017. For more information, click here: [Counterfeit Footwear](#)

ICE-HSI forms new advisory council for trade enforcement



ICE HSI Acting Executive Associate Director Derek Benner joined IPR Center Acting Director Matthew Etre to welcome a newly formed advisory council comprised of ICE HSI special agents in charge (SAC) and CBP directors of field operations (DFO). The SAC/DFO Advisory Council for Trade Enforcement is mandated by the Trade Enforcement and Trade Facilitation Act and requires both agencies to work closely in the investigation and enforcement of commercial fraud violations by promoting direct communication in the coordination of a joint mission of disrupting and dismantling transnational criminal organizations involved in trade fraud. The new council will be empowered to review existing trade enforcement initiatives for effectiveness, and suggest new initiatives based on individual agency priorities.

IPR Center employee retires after 42 years of federal service

Dixie Faries, whose federal career began in 1975 is retiring from her commercial fraud position with the IPR Center, ending a federal career that began as a respiratory therapist with the U.S. Army in El Paso, Texas. Her military assignments included stops at a remote NATO outpost in central Germany where she taught enhancement courses for U.S. Army personnel through Temple University and for Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Hemer, Germany. Dixie joined U.S. Customs in 1991 as an inspector. She later transferred to the Headquarters Office of International Affairs as an international trainer/advisor in the Law Enforcement Training Branch where she conducted port risk and needs assessments in more than 18 countries, followed by targeted training and assistance over a series of structured training events. In 2005, Dixie left U.S. Customs to join Division III (Financial) as part of the newly formed ICE. The following year, Dixie requested an assignment with the IPR Center and has been a part of the commercial fraud group ever since. She is retiring as the national program manager for illicit tobacco and in-bond diversion.



CBP takes IPR Center partner profile spotlight



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 Jacob Carter, the CBP deputy director at the IPR Center where he oversees a team dedicated to collaborating with rights holders and the 23 partner agencies to combat IP theft via capacity building, training, investigative lead de-confliction and coordination of operational activities with ICE-HSI and the FBI. He also serves as chief of IPR enforcement operations for CBP's IPR and e-Commerce Division.

Jake's civil service career began with the U.S. Customs Service at the Port of Seattle as an inspector 15 years ago. Since that time, his experiences have included serving as a senior import specialist in Seattle and Miami, where he led teams involved in all facets of classification, valuation and trade compliance. He has also held assignments at the National Targeting Center-Cargo where he worked to mitigate agriculture and biological threats at the border. He relocated to Washington, D.C., after being promoted to international trade specialist with the IPR Enforcement Operations Branch before advancing to Chief of IPR Enforcement Operations. Prior to joining CBP, Carter worked as an operations analyst for a national company overseeing operational efficiencies for a network of freight terminals.

Longtime FBI agent-liaison at IPR Center retires

IPR Center Deputy Director William Ross presented retiring FBI Special Agent John Robertson with a plaque recognizing him for his years of service and thanking him for his commitment to maintaining a meaningful FBI partnership with the IPR Center. The FBI IPR enforcement mission focuses on the disruption and dismantling of domestic and international criminal organizations and individuals that manufacture or traffic counterfeit and pirated goods, and/or steal, distribute, or otherwise profit from the theft of intellectual property.



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.