



IPRC CONNECTIONS

Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center

OCTOBER 2019

IPR Center hosts advisory board meeting with IACC



The National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) hosted the first meeting of a newly established advisory board with the International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition (IACC). Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Acting Deputy Director Derek Benner was joined at the meeting by Assistant Director of the Global Trade Investigations Division, and IPR Center Director Steve Francis, and IACC President Bob Barchiesi. They discussed current trends and issues of mutual interest in the ongoing fight against counterfeits and trade law violations. The advisory board will serve as a point of collaboration with industry representatives and brand protection personnel to discuss efforts intended to enhance overall detection and enforcement capabilities.

IPR Center conducts training on counterfeiting, illicit trade in Bangkok



The IPR Center provided intellectual property enforcement training in Bangkok, Thailand to approximately 40 customs officials, police investigators and prosecutors from Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. The workshop featured HSI case study presentations on pharmaceuticals, tobacco and cellular phones investigations. HSI Regional Attaché Eric McLoughlin provided an overview of operations at the offices of

HSI-Bangkok. Industry representatives from Apple, Colgate-Palmolive, Diageo, Japan Tobacco International, Johnson & Johnson, Syngenta, and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) delivered presentations on their enforcement efforts and collaboration with law enforcement to combat counterfeiting and illicit trade. The HSI-led workshop was funded by the Department of State/Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and supported by Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Department of Justice and Patent and Trademark Office.



Innovation Week addresses challenges facing industry

The Anti-Counterfeiting Innovation Week, co-hosted by the IPR Center and UL in partnership with the Automotive Anti-Counterfeiting Council, featured four industry forums representing the automotive, wire & cable, microelectronics and pharmaceutical industries. Additionally, a joint-industry awareness session for law enforcement and government representatives was hosted.

(photo l to r: William Ross, IPR Center senior advisor; Warren Macinnis, UL; Jason Daniels, UL; John McNair, IPR Center Outreach & Training section chief; Michael Ellis, International IP Crime Investigators College)

HSI-Cartagena, CBP, Colombian authorities investigate counterfeit toys



This is what nearly 85,000 counterfeit toys look like, seized in Cartagena (Colombia) as part of a suspicious shipment from Hong Kong of over 500 cartons. HSI is leading an investigation with CBP and Colombian authorities. Toy Story 4, a 2019 American computer-animated comedy film produced by Walt Disney Pictures, was among the items seized, along with Marvel Avengers: Endgame Titan Hero Series. HSI and CBP are leading an investigation into possible lead contamination among the items seized.

HSI San Francisco confiscates nearly \$11K in fake merchandise



HSI San Francisco, in coordination with the Oakland Police Department and local law enforcement authorities, seized more than 400 counterfeit NFL jerseys, 99 hats and 75 bandanas as part of a special intellectual property enforcement effort around the Raider-Alameda County Coliseum in Oakland during the NFL's first Monday Night Football game.

"HSI San Francisco is committed to conducting intellectual property theft investigations throughout the year and preventing the sale of counterfeit goods during the home opener of the Oakland Raiders is just one example of HSI working to ensure that the public is purchasing legitimate products," said Tatum King, special agent in charge, HSI San Francisco and Northern California.

HSI Los Angeles recognized for investigative excellence

A team of special agents in the HSI-Los Angeles office was recognized at the HSI Annual Awards Program for its investigative work in the case of an Orange County-based company selling counterfeit integrated circuits for military use. The team, working jointly with the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) and the National Reconnaissance Office – Office of the Inspector General (NRO-OIG), successfully identified and dismantled a criminal scheme to supply the Department of Defense (DoD) with counterfeit integrated circuits. The investigation led to a guilty plea and federal prison sentence of more than three years. Here's more: [HSI Los Angeles](#)



HSI enforcement efforts aimed at protecting textile industry

IPR Center Director Steve Francis addressed the Textile Production Verification Team training class and encouraged CBP agents and HSI personnel to strengthen existing partnerships and create new ones while enforcing trade laws, facilitating legitimate trade, and guarding against risks to public health and safety. The training featured presentations on – among other things – team visits to inspect foreign textile factories to verify production of textiles that have been exported to the U.S. under free trade agreements and legislated trade programs.

Did you know... that according to the Better Business Bureau, studies have found that **one in four people** have bought something online that turned out to be counterfeit. Here's more on what the studies show: [Studies](#)



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. In the meantime, you can follow us on Twitter: [@IPRCenter](#)