



IPRC CONNECTIONS

Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center

SEPTEMBER 2018

2018 IPR Center symposium focuses on social media strategy

The IPR Center will explore opportunities to harness the power of social media during its 2018 symposium which is scheduled for October 24. With a theme of *“Leveraging the Influence of Social Media,”* the Center feels educating consumers on counterfeit goods is essential to decrease demand and win the fight against counterfeiters. Government agencies and private sector companies will participate in the day-long symposium at the Center’s Arlington, Va. facility to share their social media successes. For more information, please visit www.iprcenter.gov.



ICE HSI announces new Global Trade Investigations Division



The month of September traditionally signals a change in seasons, but at the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center), change is occurring as part of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) headquarters reorganization that realigns the IPR Center within a new *Global Trade Investigations Division (GTID)*. In addition to the IPR Center, the HSI Counter-Proliferation Investigations (CPI) Unit and the Export Enforcement Coordination Center (E2C2) are part of the newly formed division that will be led by HSI Assistant Director (AD) Alex Khu, who will continue to serve as the Director of the IPR Center.

“This realignment will consolidate functional and programmatic areas within HSI Headquarters to better serve HSI field offices and more efficiently address the overall trade enforcement mission,” said ICE HSI Deputy Executive Associate Director Derek Benner.

The IPR Center remains at the forefront of the government’s response to combatting global intellectual property (IP) theft and enforcement of its international trade laws. The CPI Unit prevents illicit procurement networks, terrorist groups and hostile nations from illegally obtaining United States military products, sensitive dual-use technology, weapons of mass destruction, or chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials. The E2C2 is a multi-agency center that serves as the primary government entity for the exchange of information and intelligence related to export enforcement.

ICE HSI provides protection for citizens and industry from transnational criminal organizations by enforcing robust import and export controls. The GTID will consolidate the HSI efforts for both import and export violations under one division.

Automakers discuss counterfeit issues of mutual concern

Representatives from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) collaborated with the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers as part of the OEM Collision Repair Roundtable. This meeting enhanced the Operation Engine Newity program efforts to heighten awareness among other organizations that may unknowingly fall victim to counterfeiters, putting consumers at risk with the purchase and installation of counterfeit auto parts.

The IPR Center and representatives from the Automotive Anti-Counterfeiting Council (A2C2) exchanged ideas with the Collision Industry Conference (CIC), a forum representing all industry segments, to discuss and explore issues of mutual concern. The meetings attract a variety of participants including repairers, insurers, paint and material companies, equipment makers, vehicle manufacturers, data providers, and representatives of trade associations. The IPR Center and A2C2 presented a panel discussion on counterfeit auto parts.

California man pleads guilty to selling counterfeit air bag parts

A California man, 32-year old Pavel Ryzhenkov of Sacramento, faces a \$2 million dollar fine and up to 10 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to one count of trafficking counterfeit air bag covers and nameplate badges. Court records say he sold them on eBay. Sentencing is set for Dec. Here’s more: [Airbags](#)

33 charged in half-billion dollar smuggling scheme of counterfeit luxury goods



A total of 33 individuals have been charged following an investigation by ICE HSI into a scheme to illegally bring into the United States millions of dollars of Chinese-manufactured goods by smuggling them through ports of entry on the east and west coasts. Defendants trafficked items that included fake Louis Vuitton and Tory Burch handbags, Michael Kors wallets, Hermes belts and Chanel perfume. One defendant is also charged with unlawful procurement of naturalization.

The charges include conspiracy to traffic, and trafficking in counterfeit goods; conspiracy to smuggle, and smuggling counterfeit goods into the United States; money laundering conspiracy; and, immigration fraud and unlawful procurement of naturalization. Additionally, the government restrained nine real properties in Queens, Staten Island and Brooklyn, New York belonging to the defendants. Here's more: [Counterfeit Luxury Goods](#)

5 charged in multimillion dollar counterfeiting scheme

An investigation conducted by ICE HSI, Customs and Border Protection and the New York Police Department has led to the arrest of five New York residents on charges of conspiring to traffic in more than \$70 million worth of counterfeit Nike Air Jordan shoes. Hundreds of thousands of pairs were allegedly imported from China into the US. Here's more: [Shoes](#)

Intellectual Property and Trade Enforcement Investigation (IPTEI) Course

The IPR Center hosted the Intellectual Property and Trade Enforcement Investigation (IPTEI) course at the IPR Center. The course provided training to HSI and CBP personnel on IPR and trade fraud detection and investigations. The class was comprised of 30 students including HSI special agents and intelligence officers and CBP import specialists, officers, and regulatory auditors. The course included exercises and discussions that draw upon experience of the participants.

IP enforcement training workshop held in Mexico City

The Mexico Tax and Customs Administration Service (SAT), in cooperation with the IPR Center, hosted an intellectual property (IP) enforcement training workshop in Mexico City, Mexico to establish an open interactive forum between law enforcement, prosecutors, judicial officials and rights holders for the discussion and analysis of issues related to IP crimes in Mexico. The training also emphasized health and safety issues associated with counterfeit goods, the adverse effects on economies and the connection to transnational organized crime. Interdiction, investigations, enforcement operations, best practices, international collaboration, and product identification were among the topics discussed. Attendees represented several industries including apparel, footwear and equipment, automotive, bicycles, biotechnology, consumer goods and products, non-profit organizations, tobacco, technology, pharmaceuticals, and safety consulting.



Did you know...

The current estimate of \$461 billion in international trade in counterfeit and pirated products is projected to reach \$991 billion in total counterfeit goods by 2022, according to the International Chambers of Commerce (ICC) in a report prepared for Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy (BASCAP) and the International Trademark Association (INTA). The 2016 report is entitled *"The Economic Impacts of Counterfeiting and Piracy."*



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, please follow us on Twitter: @IPRCenter.

