

Information Session on the Temporary Protection Provided to Industrial Designs at Certain International Exhibitions Under Article 11 of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property

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INFORMATION ON SPEAKERS

prepared by the Secretariat

CHRISTOPHER CARANI



Christopher V. Carani, Esq. is a partner at the Chicago-based Intellectual Property (IP) law firm of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd. practicing in all areas of Intellectual Property (IP) with particular emphasis on design law.

Mr. Carani is widely recognized as a leading authority in the field of design law having published and lectured in the field for over 20 years. He has extensive experience in design law litigating cases, including high profile matters before United States (U.S.) district courts, the Federal Circuit, U.S. Supreme Court and the International Trade Center (ITC). Some of the world's most design centric companies have sought out Mr. Carani's strategic insights into creating valuable design right portfolios, including the top filer of U.S. design patents. In 2019, he was named to the IAM Strategy 300 – The World's Leading IP Strategists. In 2018, IAM Magazine included Mr. Carani in its IAM Patent 1000 referring to him as one of the U.S. "pre-eminent design law experts."

Mr. Carani is the current chair of the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI) Committee on Designs, and past chair of both the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) and American Bar Association (ABA) Design Rights Committees. He is also the current vice-chair of AIPPI-US. He is on faculty at Northwestern University School of Law and as an Adjunct Professor teaching IP Law & Policy. His new book "Design Rights: Functionality and Scope of Protection," published by Wolters Kluwer N.V., is the seminal work on these contentious and decisive issues. He serves on the Advisory Design Council for The School of The Art Institute of Chicago and is an Ambassador Member of the Industrial Designer's Society of America.

Prior to joining McAndrews in 1995, Mr. Carani served as a law clerk to the Honorable Rebecca R. Pallmeyer at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Carani earned his Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Marquette University and Juris Doctorate from University of Chicago. He is licensed to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

MARCUS HÖPPERGER



Marcus Höpperger is Senior Director of the Department for Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, Brands and Designs Sector of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Since taking up his duties with the World Intellectual Property Organization, he worked in various positions in international industrial property law, including as Director of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks.

In his current function, he acts as Secretary to the WIPO Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT). Previous assignments included the 2006 Diplomatic Conference adopting the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks and the 2015 Diplomatic Conference adopting the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications.

SIMON LEVITCHI



Simion Levitchi is Head of the Trademarks and Industrial Design Department of the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI) where he supervises the substantive examination of trademarks, industrial designs, denominations of origin and geographical indications (both national and international procedures) since 2010. From 2004 to 2010, Mr. Levitchi was Deputy Head of the Trademarks and Industrial Design Department of the AGEPI and Head of the Industrial Design Division from 2001 to 2003. He is also involved in the activity of the Board of Appeals of AGEPI.

Mr. Levitchi represents the Republic of Moldova at the SCT since 2009 and was elected Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) for the 37th, 38th, 39th, 41st and 42nd sessions. He has also attended the meetings of several WIPO's working groups.

Prior to joining AGEPI in 2000, Mr. Levitchi was a lecturer at the State University of Moldova where he obtained a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in chemistry. Mr. Levitchi has participated in many courses in the field of trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indications, and Intellectual Property (IP) Asset Management, arbitration and mediation procedures.

Mr. Levitchi teaches the "Industrial Design" course in the training courses organized by AGEPI for the qualification of Counselor in Intellectual Property.

MARIE PAULE RIZO



Marie Paule Rizo heads the Policy and Legislative Advice Section in the Department for Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, Brands and Designs Sector of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Ms. Rizo joined WIPO in 1997, where she has worked in various positions relating to trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications.

She is a frequent speaker on international trademark, industrial design and geographical indication law, and a lecturer at the Centre for International Intellectual Property Studies (CEIPI) in Strasbourg.

Ms. Rizo graduated in law from the University of Barcelona and holds a postgraduate degree on industrial property law from the University of Strasbourg.

MAXIME VILLEMAIRE



Maxime Villemaire is an Acting Senior Policy and Legislation Analyst for the Trademarks and Industrial Designs branch of the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO).

Mr. Villemaire joined the public service and CIPO in May 2014, where he has been working specifically on matters related to industrial design and the Implementation of the Hague Agreement for the International Registration of Industrial Designs in Canada.

In his current function, Mr. Villemaire's work is focused on policy, legislation and practices as they relate to Canadian industrial design law and the Hague Agreement. Before joining CIPO, he worked as a lawyer for the Montréal Legal Aid in matters related to family law, civil law and administrative law.

BARBARA WEIZSÄCKER



Barbara Weizsäcker joined the European Major Exhibition Centres Association (EMECA) in 2012 as Secretary General and also acts as Secretary General for the European Exhibition Industry Alliance in Brussels (Belgium). In these functions, she has acquired long experience with awareness raising, registration of rights, spontaneous conflicts and enforcement cases during trade fairs.

In 2001, Ms. Weizsäcker began working as Public Affairs Director at Messe Frankfurt (Germany), where she developed a comprehensive prevention and enforcement service entitled “Messe Frankfurt against Copying” (MFaC), with the aim to provide a fair trading environment and reduce conflicts during exhibitions. In 2007, “Messe Frankfurt against Copying” was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the United States Commercial Service. In her current position, she continues to cooperate with European Union Intellectual Property Rights initiatives for awareness raising, publications and small-to-medium enterprise (SME) trainings.

In the beginning of her career, Ms. Weizsäcker worked for the German Publishers and Booksellers Association – organizer of the Frankfurt Book Fair – and for the European Bookseller Federation in Brussels.

Ms. Weizsäcker studied English, French and Spanish Literature and Linguistics and read History in Freiburg (Germany) and Madrid (Spain). She specialized in European Union Studies in Paris (France).

TIM WERNER



Tim Werner is a judge in the district of the Regional Court of Koblenz (Germany).

Since taking up his duties as a judge in 2017, he has dealt with Medical Malpractice Law and Public Liability Law as well as Family and Insolvency law.

Since March 2019, he has been seconded to the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection in Berlin where he is a member of the Division for Trademark and Design law, Law Against Unfair Competition and Product Piracy.

In his current position, he is responsible for Trademark and Design law and is in charge to follow the WIPO's Standing Committee on Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) and the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP).