

IPCA at INTA 2017

The half-yearly meeting of the Intellectual Property Caribbean Association (IPCA) took place on Sunday, 21 May, 2017 during the International Trademark Association's (INTA) Annual Meeting in Barcelona, Spain. The meeting was held at Premium Hospitality Room 3, Hall 8.1 in the Convention Center and was led by Mr. Huw. St. John Moses OBE of HSM IP in the Cayman Islands.

The meeting was divided into two parts: the first half hour from 9 - 9.30 a.m. was for members only; then following a coffee break at 9.30 a.m. the meeting was opened to prospective members and guests with a panel discussion and an opportunity for networking.

Members' Session

Membership Report

In attendance were 24 representatives from 15 countries from the Caribbean.

Welcoming the members Huw gave a special welcome to fellow director Kenneth Porter. Steffen Hagen had recently resigned as a director having taken up a new position based outside of the Caribbean (in the Netherlands). Apologies were given on behalf of Zaida Lugo who was not in attendance.

Financial Report

Huw explained that IPCA had a good working fund, the details of which were available on the members-only section of the IPCA website. IPCA aims to keep \$25,000 to \$30,000 working capital at any given time.

Board Report

Huw confirmed that the minutes of the Directors' meeting held on 22 March, 2017 were available on the IPCA website. The amendment to the Memorandum and Articles of Association to allow for the membership of Caribbean registries was approved at an EGM held in April 2017. These documents will also be available on the website.

Three Registries had recently joined IPCA, namely, CIPO, BVI Financial Services Commission and SIC. IPCA currently had 48 members in 22 countries. The countries in which IPCA does not yet have any members were: Cuba; El Salvador; Grenada; Guatemala; Honduras; Nicaragua; Panama; Puerto Rico; St. Maarten; St. Vincent & The Grenadines and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Committee Reports

No members of the Marketing Committee (Conch Team) were present.

The Enforcement & Anti-counterfeiting Committee (Turtle Team) had received a poor response to the legal questionnaire they circulated. Huw urged for better responsiveness and participation from all members.

The Education & Training Committee (Dolphin Team) were to shortly go live with an essay competition targeted at law students and newly qualified lawyers in the Caribbean.

Panel Discussion

The meeting was then adjourned for the coffee break after which several prospective members and guests were welcomed by Huw and invited to listen to a panel discussion entitled "*Passing off & unfair competition laws across the Caribbean*" presented by Kenneth Porter, Abraham Thoppil, Fiona Hinds and Michel Kock.

The meeting ended at 11.00 a.m.

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