

IPCA at INTA 2018

The half-yearly meeting of the Intellectual Property Caribbean Association (IPCA) took place on Sunday, 20 May, 2018 during the International Trademark Association's (INTA) Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington, USA. The meeting was held in the Issaquah Room on the 3rd Floor of the Main Building of the Sheraton Seattle hotel at 1400 6th Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101 USA 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 and networking opportunity at 9.30 a.m. the meeting was opened to prospective members and guests with a panel discussion.

Members' Session

Membership Report

In attendance were 26 representatives from 12 countries from the Caribbean.

Welcoming the members Huw noted that membership was continuing to grow and that there were now 52 members in 25 countries. 4 members had not renewed for 2018, but 7 new members had signed up.

Financial Report

Huw reminded the members that financial information was available on the Members Only section of the IPCA website. The accounts from the inception of IPCA were available. The latest accounts for the period ending 30 April, 2018 demonstrated an income of over US\$16,000 in membership fees. The balance, minus expenses, was US\$47,476.71. Names of individual firms and their payments were shown on a separate spreadsheet.

Huw also reminded the members to ensure wire transfer charges fees were covered when paying membership fees. Credit/Debit card payments are the preferred payment method.

Board Report

Huw confirmed that the last Directors' meeting held on 13 April, 2018 focused on planning the AGM and pushing the committees to fulfil their objectives and meet on a regular basis.

Huw congratulated Rosalind Smith-Miller and Fiona Hinds on their appointments as Queen's Counsel in Barbados.

Committee Reports

Marketing Committee (Conch Team)

Mirjam Brammerloo reported that the IPCA Essay Competition 2018 had been advertised in Suriname.

Zaida Lugo asked whether any other members wished to join the Marketing Committee as many of the Committees's emails went unanswered.

Enforcement & Anti-counterfeiting Committee (Turtle Team)

Howard Harris reported that a questionnaire had been circulated to all members. However, not all members had responded, and Howard reminded the members of the importance of submitting responses in order for the results to be used in a meaningful manner.

Education & Training Committee (Dolphin Team)

Sophie Davies reported that the IPCA Essay Competition 2018 had been launched and the rules of entry were available on the IPCA website. Sophie explained that to date the competition had been advertised by members in the Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago and urged members in other countries to help advertise the competition to ensure as much participation from across the Caribbean as possible. Sophie also asked the Marketing Committee to consider paid-for advertising of the competition as well as a social media campaign.

Sophie reported that Elleson Fraenk had prepared a questionnaire for the committee's review concerning the availability of IP specific training in the Caribbean. Once approved, the questionnaire was to be sent to the Board for approval and circulation amongst the members.

Sophie also urged the members to submit new proposals for panel discussion topics for the AGM to be held in Miami in November 2018 and asked for volunteers to present on the panel.

Legislation & Registry Liaison Committee (Coconut Team)

Kimberley Roheman reported that her committee had received positive responses to a classifications survey sent to the members to examine whether there was any possibility of harmonization across the region. The information would be compiled and sent to the Board for publication on the IPCA website.

Panel Discussion

The meeting was then adjourned for the coffee break after which 13 prospective members and guests were welcomed by Huw and invited to listen to a panel discussion entitled "*Madrid Protocol: The Pros and Cons*" presented by Dianne Daley, Rosalind Smith Millar Q.C. and Abraham Thoppil.

The meeting ended shortly after 11.00 a.m.

Report prepared by:

Kim Rough-Moses

Secretary

IPCA

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