

IPCA at INTA 2019

The half-yearly meeting of the Intellectual Property Caribbean Association (IPCA) took place on Sunday, 19 May, 2019 during the International Trademark Association's (INTA) Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, 02210 USA. The meeting was held in the Carlton Meeting Room of The Westin Boston Waterfront, 425 Summer Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02210 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 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 57 representatives from 24 countries in the Caribbean.

IPCA Directors Huw Moses, Kimberley Roheman and Kenneth Porter were present. Jessica Ward sent her apologies, and it was noted that Rosalind Smith Millar QC had resigned from her position as an IPCA Director following the last AGM.

Welcoming the Members Huw noted that Membership was continuing to grow and that there were now 60 Members in 27 countries: 54 of these were ordinary Members and 6 were Registry Members. There is no annual fee for Registry Members and Membership fees remain unchanged at US\$350. Associate Membership was available for each additional Member from the same firm at a reduced rate of US\$100, as decided at the last AGM.

Huw asked that current IPCA members continue to seek out new Members and emphasized that the participation of the Members was key to the success of both INTA and IPCA. He also encouraged Members to hold IPCA events in their own countries with participating Member firms. Funds were available by way of subsidy. Those interested in holding an IPCA event should contact either Huw directly or the Marketing Committee.

Huw reminded the Members of the IPCA's Members Only website password and noted that all documents, including Meeting Reports and financials, were available in the Members Only section of the website. Huw also asked Members to assist in the further development of the website in terms of content building and to contact him directly or, the Marketing Committee, regarding materials or ideas in this regard.

Financial Report

Huw reminded the Members that financial information was available on the Members Only section of the IPCA website. The latest accounts for the period starting 1 February, 2019 and ending 30 April, 2019 demonstrated an income of US\$5,500 in Membership fees. The balance, minus expenses, for the current period was US\$56,000. Expenses included the following: domain website hosting services; recording the change of directors and payment of annual fees; cash prizes paid to the winner and runner -up of the first Essay Completion; payment towards

the Anti-counterfeiting event held in Jamaica sponsored by IPCA in conjunction with INTA; and the payment of the deposit for Hyatt in Trinidad for the AGM to be held in November 2019.

Huw also reminded the Members to ensure wire transfer charges fees were covered when paying Membership fees, as in many cases members' intermediate banks deducted US\$20 – US\$30 in wire fees, so IPCA did not always receive Membership fees in full. Payments by credit card also attracted a 3% deduction in fees.

Board Report

Huw confirmed that the Directors had been busy and had met by way of conference calls prior to the meeting. They had assisted in the planning of the successful IPCA/INTA Anti-counterfeiting event in Jamaica and were focused on planning the next AGM. It was noted that going forward, more advanced notice should be given to IPCA Members in respect of upcoming events as one month's notice was not enough time to properly advertise events.

Huw encouraged Members to help promote IPCA and interact more with the IPCA website.

The next meeting was to be IPCA's 5th AGM to be held at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad on Saturday, 9 November, 2019. Full details and registration forms were to be sent out in July. Trinidad was chosen as a venue mainly because of the ability to travel there with relative ease from all other Caribbean countries. The current plan was to hold IPCA's 6th AGM in Miami and then hold the AGM in other Caribbean islands every few years or so. If anyone had any ideas in that regard, they could provide information to Huw or IPCA's Secretary Kim Rough-Moses.

Committee Reports

Marketing Committee (Conch Team)

Michel Kock gave the report on behalf of the Marketing Committee in the absence of Chairman Mirjam Brammerloo. He reported that for 2019, the Marketing Committee had 5 tasks planned: as follows:

1. To e-mail IPCA Members regarding the possible organization of subsidized workshops and table topics in member countries. Only two Members responded, from Trinidad and Jamaica.
2. To work with the Education and Training Committee to furnish marketing materials for the Essay Competition. Members of the Marketing Committee had spread the word of the Essay Competition in their own countries.
3. To encourage Members to upload the IPCA logo to their law firm websites and share IPCA news. Michel did not have any feedback on the number of Members who had done so.
4. To set up LinkedIn and Twitter accounts for IPCA.
5. To obtain quotes in respect of an IPCA ribbon for use at INTA. Mirjam Brammerloo had looked into the process of having the ribbons made, but it was too expensive.

Next Steps:

1. Continued promotion of IPCA via LinkedIn and Twitter.

2. Continued promotion of the Essay Competition.
3. Collection of articles from IPCA Members for a possible newsletter. The last draft newsletter was sent to Board, but feedback on same had not yet been received.
4. Members were requested to provide news articles to be shared on IPCA social media channels and the IPCA website.

Legislation & Registry Liaison Committee (Coconut Team)

Chairman Kimberley Roheman reported that there was little to report because her Committee was in the process of gathering data and conducting an in-depth analysis on ways to protect Members' interests. The Coconut Team had reviewed the Madrid protocol and assessed the WIPO legislation impacting different members' states. The aim was to produce a report before the AGM in November 2019.

Enforcement & Anti-counterfeiting Committee (Turtle Team)

Chairman Howard Harris reported that the IPCA/INTA Anti-counterfeiting event held in Jamaica on 19 March, 2019 had been a success. Fifty people had attended, including attorneys, customs officials and law enforcement officers, amongst others. The morning session mainly consisted of speeches, which were then followed by a lunch break and Panel Discussion to close. Topics discussed included copyright and trade marks, with a focus on the cigarette industry and violations regarding the sale of counterfeit DVDs.

INTA wanted to hold a second event this year and Howard planned on asking for the permission of the IPCA Board of Directors in order to participate again. This was one of the ways in which the importance of IPCA could be highlighted throughout the region to elevate its profile.

Education & Training Committee (Dolphin Team)

Chairman Sophie Peat reported that the essays completed by the IPCA Essay Competition 2018 winner (Brittney Elliott Williams from Jamaica) and runner-up (Coilin Flynn from the Cayman Islands) had been published on the IPCA website and the respective cash prizes of US\$2,000 and US\$1,000 had been awarded.

Sophie said that the IPCA Essay Competition 2019 had now been launched and the rules of entry were available on the IPCA website. The deadline for entries was 31 August, 2019. Sophie explained that to date the competition had been advertised by Members in Aruba, the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Saint Maarten, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago and urged Members in other countries to help advertise the Competition to ensure as much participation from across the Caribbean as possible. The Marketing Committee had also advertised the competition on Twitter and LinkedIn. The Competition judges were to be, Fanta Punch, Fiona Hinds and Sophie Peat.

The IPCA Essay Competition 2020 was to be launched on 1 October, 2019 with a submission deadline of 1 July, 2020 to ensure IPCA takes advantage of university and law school start dates. An essay title was still to be decided, although Elleson Fraenk had suggested that the general topic be on the subject of copyright, in which case, she would act as a judge. Karl Bertrand volunteered to act as a second judge and the Committee was looking for one more Member to volunteer to act as the third judge.

Sophie reported that Elleson Fraenk had prepared a Questionnaire concerning the availability of IP specific training in the Caribbean, which had been circulated amongst Members and completed by members in 8 countries (Antigua & Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands). Sophie asked other Members to also complete the questionnaire so that Elleson could prepare an informative report to be circulated amongst the Members.

Sophie confirmed that the Panel Discussion to take place at the next IPCA AGM in November, 2019 would be on the topic of *“Anti-counterfeiting in the Caribbean”* to be presented by Fanta Punch, Chander Mahabir, Zaida Lugo and Marissa Longsworth.

Panel Discussion

The meeting was then adjourned for the Coffee Break after which 19 prospective Members and guests were welcomed by Huw and invited to listen to a Panel Discussion entitled *“Copyright Protection in the Caribbean”* presented by Fiona Hinds, Kimberley Roheman and Elleson Fraenk.

The meeting ended shortly after 11.00 a.m.

Report prepared by:

Sophie Peat

Education and Training Committee Chairman

IPCA

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