

Intellectual Property Caribbean Association (IPCA)

IPCA Annual General Meeting 2017 Meeting Report

The third AGM of the Intellectual Property Caribbean Association (IPCA) took place on Saturday, 4 November, 2017 from 9.00 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Miami Marriott Dadeland Hotel, 9090 S. Dadeland Blvd., Miami, Florida, 33131, USA. In attendance were 27 representatives from 21 firms from 14 countries from the Caribbean. Regrets sent from members of the following firms and organizations were noted:

Aanic Legal Services;

Arguelles & Company;

BBV Legal;

BVI Financial Services Commission;

Cayman Islands Intellectual Property Office;

Chancery Chambers;

FirstMark

G.A. Winkel SR.N.V.;

Livingston, Alexander & Levy;

Cox Hallett Wilkinson Limited;

Myles Fletcher & Gordon;

Mosko & Associates;

Sabals Law;

The Bureau for Intellectual Property (St. Maarten);

Trademarks & Consultancy N.V.;

Morning session

The meeting was led by Mr Huw St. John Moses OBE of HSM IP in the Cayman Islands. Registration began at 9 a.m. and the meeting started at around 9.15 a.m. Sophie Davies of HSM IP took notes of the meeting.

Huw made some welcoming remarks and commented that IPCA currently consists of 50 active members from 24 countries.

Proxies

Proxies from the following companies were held by Huw Moses: Cox Hallett Wilkinson; G.A. Winkel SR.N.V.; Mourant Ozannes; Chancery Chambers, Myles Fletcher & Gordon and Arguelles & Company.

Michel Kock held proxy for BBV Legal; Fanta Punch held proxy for Morgan and Morgan; Howard Harris held proxy for Bertrand Legal; Jessica Ward held proxy for Aanic Legal Services.

There followed the formal AGM of the Company. The official minutes of the formal part of the AGM are available in the Members only section of the website. Voting points included: (a) the approval of company accounts; (b) membership fees for 2018; (c) the election of directors to serve until the next AGM.

Informal Discussion

Huw asked all members to provide details of their committee memberships outside of IPCA for future reference.

It was felt that a stronger relationship should be built between IPCA and INTA.

Huw suggested that we actively encourage members from outstanding Caribbean countries to join IPCA. The countries in which IPCA still does not have members are as follows:

- The Caribbean Netherlands: Bonaire, St. Eustatius & Saba
- Cuba
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Montserrat (Registry Member Only)
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Puerto Rico
- St. Maarten
- St. Vincent & The Grenadines
- US Virgin Islands
- Venezuela

Going forward, the Board will set objectives for the committee Chairs. Chairs will undertake to the Board to carry out certain obligations within a certain time frame.

It was suggested that IPCA employs an administrative manager. The Board will consider specific proposals submitted by Members.

There was a 30 minute break for coffee and cookies at 10.30 a.m.

Howard Harris, Fanta Punch and Zaida Lugo led a panel discussion on “Geographical Indications in the Caribbean”.

A three course lunch was served at 12.30 p.m.

Afternoon session

The meeting resumed at around 2.00 p.m.. Committee meetings commenced.

Committee Meetings

Committee meetings are to take place every two months.

Submissions as to committee objectives for the New Year are to be sent to Board by end of November 2017.

Committee Reports

Team session reports were presented:

1. Marketing Committee (the “Conch” team) Report

Objectives:

- a) Help promote IP essay competition (propose winner or runner up to join a future IPCA meeting).
- b) To grow IPCA – ideas to be discussed on committee conference calls.
- c) Requested the JPEG of IPCA logo be sent to members again.
- d) Ask external speakers / winners of essay competition to join at an IPCA meeting.
- e) Requested presenters to post copies of presentations on the IPCA website.
- f) Send the Board comments on what the mission statement of IPCA should be in the view of this committee.

2. Legislation & Registry Liaison Committee (the “Coconut” team) Report

Objectives:

- a) Harmonisation of legislation – focus on Nice Classification and deliver a paper which will indicate the different status of each different jurisdiction. Quick survey to be placed on the IPCA website of compiled data on the Nice Classification.
- b) Madrid Protocol – consider status in various jurisdictions and present pros and cons for each Island.
- c) Copyright – undertake a survey for IPCA website determine what laws exist in the various jurisdictions and present a paper on that subject.
- d) Send the Board comments on what the mission statement of IPCA should be in the view of this committee.

3. Education & Training Committee (the “Dolphin” team) Report

Objectives:

- a) Finalise and Launch IP Essay competition.
- b) Arrange panel discussion for next IPCA meeting.
- c) Conduct research into training in IP in countries where IP focused courses are not available?
- d) Arrange webinar sessions.
- e) Arrange a Committee meeting.
- f) Send the Board comments on what the mission statement of IPCA should be in the view of this committee.

4. Enforcement & Counterfeiting (the “Turtle” team) Report

Objectives:

- a) Prepare questionnaire and case analysis on counterfeiting.
- b) Consider participation in Unreal campaign (IPCA assisting INTA)
- c) Send the Board comments on what the mission statement of IPCA should be in the view of this committee.

Any Other Business

It was considered a good idea to produce some IPCA marketing materials – input from Marketing Committee welcomed, to promote the organisation and assist members with recruitment of new members.

The Board will consider imposing late payment fee / early bird rate for IPCA paid events.

There was a discussion on the merits of holding the AGM in a different Caribbean Island each year. The Board would consider this matter further when organizing the next AGM.

Next Meeting

Proposed date and venue: 9 – 11 a.m. on Sunday, 20 May, 2017 during INTA in Seattle, Washington, USA.

Closing remarks were made by Huw.

The meeting ended at around 4.00 p.m.

Report prepared by:

Sophie Davies, Member, IPCA