

Intellectual Property Caribbean Association (IPCA)

IPCA Annual General Meeting 2020 Meeting Report dated 28 November 2020

The sixth AGM of the Intellectual Property Caribbean Association (IPCA) took place on Saturday, 28 November, 2020 from 9.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. via Zoom. In attendance were 24 representatives from 21 firms from 13 countries from the Caribbean.

Welcome remarks

The meeting was led by Mr. Huw St. John Moses OBE. The meeting started at around 9.00 a.m. Sophie Peat took the minutes of the meeting.

Huw suggested that in 2021 IPCA should hold more virtual meetings due to continuing pandemic-related restrictions preventing IPCA members from meeting in person.

Formal AGM

The official minutes of the formal part of the AGM are available in the Members only section of the website.

The Directors' Report

The directors met three times during the course of the year and the minutes are available on the member portal of the IPCA website. Huw encouraged the committees to meet more in 2021.

Committee Reports

The Committee reports were presented:

1. Legislation & Registry Liaison Committee (the "Coconut" team) Report

Board Liaison: Kimberley Roheman
Chair: Natalie Augustin

Kimberley Roheman delivered the report on behalf of the Committee.

Membership has dwindled. However, Kimberley will try to establish an agenda moving forward, focused on the Madrid Protocol, and seek to attract more members.

2. Enforcement & Counterfeiting (the "Turtle" team) Report

Board Liaison: Jessica Ward
Chair: Howard Harris
Co-Chair: Keesha Fleming-Lake

Howard Harris delivered the report on behalf of the Committee.

Howard mentioned that the committee was still working on delivering a questionnaire. Howard is to step down as Chair of the Committee and will hold a formal meeting in this regard. Mikhail Jackson will be invited to take the position of Chair.

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

Board Liaison: Kenneth Porter

Chair: Sophie Peat

Sophie Peat delivered the report on behalf of the Committee.

Aims and Objectives:

- a) Chevánt St Luke Hamilton of Jamaica was the winner of the 2020 Essay Competition on the topic: “Discuss the role of IP in the creative sector in the Caribbean, with a focus on the law of copyright”. The runner up was Leann Prins of Suriname. Judges Elleson Fraenk (Schurman Advocaten), Karyl Bertrand (Bertrand Legal & Intellectual Property), and Louise Malcom (Miller Simons O’Sullivan) judged the competition. There were a total of 8 entrants, the highest number to date.
- b) The 2021 Essay Competition is now live and the deadline is 1 July 2021. The essay title is: “Critically review, assess and discuss legislation and policy relating to Cultural Industries, Genetic Resources and/or Traditional Knowledge within the Caribbean (or your jurisdiction specifically) and offer your well-reasoned suggestions for the further development of this area.” The judges are Kenneth Porter (Sagis IP), Marissa Longworth (CILGlobal IP) and Sophie Peat (HSM IP Ltd.).

Other Matters

Olive Ramchand advised the members that she would be retiring in 2021 and the Chairman thanked her for her contribution to IPCA and the IP profession generally. All agreed she would be missed. Huw urged her to keep in contact with her many friends and colleagues at IPCA in her retirement.

Rosalind Smith Millar reported on her virtual attendance at the INTA Annual Meeting 2020. She thought attendance was around 4,000 and was less physical exhausting than the physical meeting. Rosalind reported it was well organized and she had been able to organise meetings both during and subsequent to the conference itself, but the personal interaction was of course missing. Howard Harris noted that the educational content had been very good, but he felt few visited the virtual exhibit hall.

Next Meeting

The next meeting would usually be IPCA at INTA to be held during INTA in San Diego, California, USA, in May 2021, but due to the continuing global pandemic it is still to be determined whether IPCA will hold a physical meeting at this time.

Closing remarks were made by Huw.

The meeting ended at around 10.30 a.m.

Report prepared by:

Sophie Peat

Education and Training Committee Chairman