

Intellectual Property Caribbean Association (IPCA)

IPCA Annual General Meeting 2021 Meeting Report dated 4 December 2021

The seventh AGM of the Intellectual Property Caribbean Association (IPCA) took place on Saturday, 4 December, 2021 from 9.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. via Zoom. In attendance for the formal part of the AGM there were 19 representatives from 16 firms from 11 countries from the Caribbean. Additional members joined after the conclusion of the formal AGM. By the conclusion of the event 27 members were participating.

Welcome remarks

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

Huw reported that there had not been much IPCA related activity during the past year due to continuing pandemic-related restrictions preventing IPCA members from meeting in person. Huw mentioned that no decision had yet been made as to whether or not the next in person IPCA meeting would be held at the INTA AGM scheduled to take place in Washington D.C. in 2022. Much would depend on the format of the INTA AGM, attendance, etc. However, Huw was able to advise members that the 2023 Annual Meeting of INTA would be in Singapore in April 2023 and that the IPCA booking originally made for Singapore in 2020 had been transferred to 2023.

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

There had not been much activity on the part of the directors during 2021. Membership had also remained the same as the prior year.

Committee Reports

The Committee reports were presented:

1. 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) Kurrisha Aberdeen was the winner of the 2021 Essay Competition on the topic: "*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 runner up was Ana-Lissa Jack, also of Trinidad and Tobago. There were a total of 5 entrants (note that the highest number of entrants in any given year to date was 8).
- b) Topics suggested to date for the title of the 2022 Essay Competition were as follows (topics iii through v below are topics based on panel discussions from 2017 and 2018):
 - i. The role of Intellectual Property in finance (Covid-19 and IP's rescuing financing)
 - ii. The OECD's Economic Substance Test for Intellectual Property and its impact on IP holdings

- iii. Passing off & unfair competition laws across the Caribbean.
- iv. Geographical Indications in the Caribbean.
- v. (Lack of) Patent Protection in the Caribbean: Problems and Solutions.

c) IPCA members were invited to judge the 2022 essay competition alongside Abraham Thoppil.

2. Enforcement & Anti-counterfeiting (the “Turtle” team) Report

Board Liaison: Jessica Ward
Chair: Mikhail Jackson

Mikhail Jackson delivered the report on behalf of the Committee.

Mikhail mentioned that the committee was still working on delivering a questionnaire on counterfeiting/anti-counterfeiting across the Caribbean. He also mentioned that there were plans for IPCA to participate in an anti-counterfeiting / free trade zone workshop in conjunction with INTA and ASIPI.

Mikhail would like to introduce a database of case law on counterfeiting for the use of IPCA members and see the Turtle Committee utilize Basecamp going forward.

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

Board Liaison: Kimberley Roheman
Chair: TBC

Kimberley Roheman delivered the report on behalf of the Committee. Natalie Augustin stepped down as Chair and Kimberley asked the members to volunteer to take over the position.

The Committee may be able to assist with future panel discussions on the Madrid Protocol, which was a popular topic amongst members given the recent accession of Trinidad and Tobago.

Any Other Business

There was much interest amongst members in future panel discussions on sanitary registrations (to be delivered by Jessica Ward of Costa Rica and Jose Santana of the Dominican Republic) as well as a PCT patents discussion to be delivered by Francis DePeiza.

Next Meeting

The next meeting would usually be IPCA at INTA to be held during the 2022 INTA Annual Meeting in Washington D.C., USA, but due to the continuing global pandemic it is still to be determined whether this event will take place.

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