Message from the Chair

Dear IP Section Members:

Welcome to the new Bar year, and happy 50th birthday to our IP Section! It is my honor to serve as your Chair of the IP Section for 2014-15. As you can see from the list of officers and committee chairs, we have a strong and dedicated Executive Committee to help guide our Section to continued success this year.

Before getting too deep into predictions of future success though, please join me in congratulating our immediate Past-Chair, Tina Williams McKeon, and the 2013-14 Executive Committee for their fantastic success last Bar year. Under their leadership, our IP Section was once again selected by the State Bar as Section of the Year! Thank you Tina, and to everyone involved, for your service to our IP Section.

We are planning an early start to the new Bar year with a networking event on August 21 at Front Page News in Midtown, where you can learn more about our Section’s upcoming activities and sign up to participate on one (or more) of our Section’s committees. Bookmark our Section website (http://georgiaip.org/) and check there for more information about this and other upcoming events. I encourage everyone, especially our newer Section members, to get involved with one of our committees. You don’t need to be an expert in the field to help on a committee – in fact, helping on a committee might just start you down the path to becoming an expert in the field.

Our 20th annual IP Institute will be held this year in Amelia Island, Florida, September 18-21. We’ve heard many of our IP Section members’ concerns in recent years about the expense and difficulty of travel to off-shore programs, so this year we are bringing our Section’s IP Institute back closer to home to make it easy and affordable. This year’s Institute will also be an exclusively IP-focused program, and you can find out more about Program details by clicking here.

We’ve got a great program lined up, including three Federal Circuit judges, the Chief Judge of the Northern District of Georgia, the Chief Judge of the ITC, and

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the Chief Judge of the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. We expect the Institute to be a sell-out, so register now!

We also plan to continue our IP Section’s tradition of excellent CLE programming and networking events throughout the year, with lunch & learn programs by our committees in their respective subject-matter areas. If you have ideas for topics or speakers that you would like to see covered, contact the Committee Chair for that area of IP – or better yet, volunteer for their committee and help make it happen!

Our annual holiday party is always one of the highlights of the year, and this year will be no exception. And looking further into the future, we will again be hosting the IP Gala and Judges Dinner in the spring. Watch your inboxes for invitations to these and other great events hosted by our IP Section.

As you can see, the stage is set for another fantastic year for our IP Section. I hope you will be an active part of it. And I look forward to serving as your IP Section Chair as we embark on the next 50 years of success!

Brad Groff, IP Section Chair
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SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Special Events Committee has planned a number of fall events that you won’t want to miss. First up is the Section’s Annual Open House and Summer Social, which will be held on August 21 at Front Page News in Midtown. The event will run from 5pm until 8pm, and is the perfect opportunity to meet your fellow Section members and get involved in Committee events for the coming year. Drinks and hors d’oeuvres will be served. Click here for further information and to register, and we look forward to seeing you at the event!

Next up, and right around the corner is the 20th Annual IP Institute, which will be held this coming September 18-21 at the Omni Amelia Island Resort. We are pleased to offer eight hours of CLE credit available to all. Click here for further information and to register, and we look forward to seeing you at the beach!

Finally, we are pleased to announce that we will again host the IP Section’s Annual Gala at Atlanta’s High Museum on March 26, 2015. Please stay tuned for more details regarding this increasingly popular event, and be sure save the date!

IN-HOUSE / LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Trademark Committee and In-House Counsel/Licensing Committee hosted a CLE luncheon on May 22 entitled “Policing and Enforcing Trademarks on Social Media, “at the Four Seasons Hotel in Midtown. Panelists included Bakari Brock (Lyft), Todd Williams (Turner Broadcasting) and Lindsey Corbin (Z5 Consulting), who provided insights into the unique challenges that social media presents for copyright and trademark owners (and their attorneys). The panel was moderated by Matt Smith (Innovolt) and Joe Staley (Kids II), and was followed by a social hour that was attended by both in-house and outside attorneys.

The In-House/Licensing and Trademark Committees are planning a number of exciting events for this upcoming fall. Anyone interested in joining the Trademark Committee is encouraged to contact the Chair, Alison Danaceau. For those interested in joining the In-House/Licensing Committee, please feel free to contact Co-Chairs Matt Smith and Joe Staley. We look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Open House!

PATENT COMMITTEE

On April 21, the Patent Committee hosted a one hour CLE entitled “Perspectives on Recent Efforts in Patent Litigation Reform.” This lunch-and-learn program was moderated by John DiRico (AirWatch by VMware). The event featured Chris Haggerty (Noble Systems), Bob Lee (Alston & Bird), and Professor Timothy Holbrook (Emory Law). These panelists engaged in a spirited dialogue concerning the latest round of legislative patent reform that has been proposed by the Senate Judiciary Committee, and questioned whether alternatives to the Senate plan might better address concerns regarding the current state of patent litigation. The Committee thanks Alston & Bird for hosting the discussion.

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On August 7, the Patent Committee held its first meeting to discuss its members’ plans and ideas for the upcoming bar year. Stay tuned for some great programming, and if you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to the committee’s co-chairs!

COPYRIGHT COMMITTEE

The Copyright Committee hosted a CLE entitled “Practicing Copyright Law In-House: An Insider’s Perspective,” on April 30. The event was moderated by Former Copyright Chair Andrew Pequignot, and included panelists Christine Cason, Chief Trademark and Copyright Counsel for Georgia-Pacific; Gina Henschen, Senior Director, Business & Legal Affairs for The Weather Channel; and John Renaud and Brenton Hund, senior counsel and counsel (respectively) for Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.

Attendees were treated to a lively discussion of the uncertainties that can arise when old laws are applied to new and unforeseen methods of content distribution, and the issues this can pose for in-house attorneys seeking to provide their companies with effective legal guidance.

The Committee thanks Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP for agreeing to host this event, and reminds Section Members to stay tuned for information regarding future Copyright programs!

LITIGATION COMMITTEE

In June, the Litigation Committee hosted a panel discussion on Alternative Dispute Resolution in Intellectual Property Cases. The panelists provided their perspectives on a variety of issues regarding ADR in IP cases, including factors to consider when identifying the best form of ADR, what information to collect from a client in preparation for mediation or arbitration, and strategies for reaching final resolution through ADR. Panelists included the Hon. William S. Duffey, Jr., Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Geoffrey Rogers, Patent Counsel at Newell Rubbermaid Inc., and Allen Yee, Counsel at the Coca-Cola company. William H. Needle of Ballard Spahr LLP moderated. A special thanks to Coby Nixon from Talyor English Duma LLP for organizing the event.

We look forward to seeing you for our next Litigation Committee event on November 11, 2014. More details to come.

AIA PRO BONO COMMITTEE

In cooperation with Georgia Lawyers for the Arts, the Federal Circuit Bar Association, the Georgia State University School of Law, and other interested organizations, the IP Section is assisting with the implementation of the Inventor Assistance Project of Georgia. This pro bono initiative is designed to help low-income Georgians secure patent protection for their inventions. To help make this program a reality, the Executive Committee is proud to have contributed, on behalf of the entire IP Section, a five year monetary grant. As always, we thank our membership for its generous support.

We are also pleased to announce the formation of a new Committee: the AIA Pro Bono Committee. Under the guidance of its Chair, Rivka Monheit, this Committee will serve as the IP Section’s representative during the development and implementation of this exciting new program.

Anyone interested in learning more about or assisting with this important pro bono initiative is invited to stop by the IP Section Open House at Front Page News in Midtown on August 21. Those who are unable to attend the Open House should also feel free to reach out to Ms. Monheit via the contact information below.

Pabst Patent Group LLP
404-879-2152
Rivka@pabstpatent.com

YLD COMMITTEE

The YLD Committee hopes everyone has enjoyed a relaxing summer, and encourages Members to stay tuned for the details of upcoming social and networking events.
On May 22, 2014 the Section hosted a Spring Networking Event at the Four Seasons Hotel in Midtown, celebrating its 50th Anniversary and paying tribute to all those who have contributed to the Section’s astounding growth and success. 2013-2014 Section Chair Tina McKeon gave a recap of the events that made the past year so remarkable, and also provided an overview of future plans and initiatives. Among the many former IP Section Chairs present was Bill Needle, who generously agreed to share his personal recollections and stories, dating from the Section’s founding in 1964 (as the “Section of Patent, Trademark, and Copyright Law”), to the present. Thanks go out to everyone who helped with the event, and special thanks to Bill Needle for a wonderful presentation! Clockwise, from top left: Former Chair Tina McKeon looks back on a great year; Current Section Chair Brad Groff and other attendees look on; Bill Needle recalls the Section’s early days, and some of its many colorful characters, including Ernest P. “Jelly” Rogers and “The Colonel” Edward T. Newton (also pictured); Former Section Chair Tina McKeon poses with other former Chairs in attendance.
Don’t Miss Out!
Sign Up Now for the 20th Annual IP Institute!

Please click here for a schedule of events.
For additional information regarding speaker requests, program topic ideas, and sponsorship opportunities, contact Virginia Carron at (404) 653-6400, virginia.carron@finnegan.com, or Brad Groff at (770) 984-2300, bgroff@gardnergroff.com.

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Attend the State Bar of Georgia IP Section’s 20th Annual Intellectual Property Law Institute at the beautiful Omni Amelia Island Resort! Join us for fantastic IP-focused CLE programs with great speakers, including several judges from the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The IP Institute provides great networking opportunities, dining, and social activities with colleagues and friends, free time in the afternoons to enjoy golf, tennis and other activities, or relax on the beach. Enjoy an end-of-summer getaway with the family at this beautiful resort!

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Upcoming Events

---August 21, 2014----
Open House and Summer Social
Front Page News
(Midtown)
5pm-8pm
click here for more information

---Sept. 18-21, 2014----
20th Annual IP Institute
Omni Amelia Island Resort
(for reservations click here
(for registration click here)

---October 13, 2014----
The CIP CUP®
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benefiting
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click here for more information

---October 21, 2014----
2014 Ga. State Univ.
IP Community Service Award Luncheon
Ga. State University ballroom
click here for more information

2014-2015 IP Section Executive Committee


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Kids II

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