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Chair's Message

Message from Chittam Thakore



Dear IP Section Members – buckle up for another activity-filled Bar year! Due to some officer reshuffling, I am serving a second term as the IP Section Chair, and it is my pleasure and honor to continue to lead the effort to bring quality programs to you all. As the new Bar year begins, your IP Section Executive Committee is hard at work putting together informative CLE programs and social events to promote professional excellence and foster camaraderie. We will continue to give you opportunities to learn through hot topic CLEs and to engage with fellow Section members through popular social events such as our kick-off happy hour and our Winter social event.

In addition, the Executive Committee is particularly focused on building on the success of the June 2025 Annual Conference to bring to you another section-wide conference in the 2025-26 Bar year! We continue to debate the advantages of an in-town versus a destination event, so if you have not already taken the [survey](#) to give us the benefit of your input, please do so ASAP. We are also focused on bringing back (from the pre-COVID era) the popular “Annual Judges’ Appreciation Dinner.” Please volunteer ([by emailing me](#)) if you are interested in helping with either the Annual Conference or the Judges’ Dinner. We welcome volunteers and could use the extra help with planning.

I encourage you to re-engage or further engage as you receive notices of upcoming programs. Our efforts are on your behalf, and your participation strengthens our drive to bring you excellent programming. As the Bar year heats up, you’ll receive invites to both IP Section-wide events as well as events specific to the IP Section Committees you have signed up for. If you have not signed up for an IP Section Committee, please check out this [link](#). I can personally attest to the value that being active in the committees and programming imparts. My active participation in an IP Section committee is what jump started my involvement with the Section and that involvement has enriched me both personally and professionally. I hope that our IP Section will serve as a valuable resource for each of you, too!

Finally, I thank each of you who have unflaggingly supported and served this Section; we, as your leaders and Executive Board, could not do half of what we do each year without your efforts. To the tirelessly dedicated ones—your efforts are not unnoticed. To those looking for more meaningful involvement—we stand ready to welcome you. Why wait? Jump on in!

Here’s to another productive year,

Chittam U. Thakore

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IP Section Resumes Annual Conference With Full Day Meeting at Bar Center



At the State Bar Center in June, the IP Section held its first Annual Conference in many years. The resumed Annual Conference was a tremendous success with nearly 90 people registered to attend and a day full of insightful and engaging presentations. Attendees started the morning with a panel called Copyright and AI 2025. Alcide Honore (Honore Law LLC) and Jelani Miller (The Miller Law Group, LLC) discussed recent efforts by courts and legislators to address the interplay of AI and copyright law. This 2025 update also included practical guidance regarding disclosure of AI-generated content and contract drafting considerations.

The copyright presentation was followed by a trade secrets panel called Winning Early: Do's and Don'ts When Applying for TRO's and Preliminary Injunctions in Trade Secrets. This panel was moderated by Neil Weinrich



(Berman Fink Van Horn) and featured Alison Ballard (Buchalter), Lea Dearing (Berman Fink Van Horn), and Michael Elkon (Fisher Phillips). The panel provided an overview of options and considerations for early relief in trade secrets cases in light of the fact-specific nature of litigating both the existence of a trade secret and whether it has been misappropriated. The presentation also covered practical considerations for avoiding trade secret misappropriation claims and discussed the interplay of trade secrets and restrictive covenants.



A panel of in-house attorneys presented next in a session called Navigating Ethics while Protecting Intellectual Property; Legal Issues and Updates from an In-House Perspective.

This panel featured Pratik Jhanb (World Pay), Elizabeth Lester (Equifax), and Allen Tornig (Southwire Company) and was moderated by Justin Charles Ward (Blue Force Gear, Inc.). This ethics presentation focused on the AI-related challenges presented to companies and provided an in-house perspective on managing this rapidly evolving technology. The panelists discussed the importance of in-house counsel adopting policies and educating business people regarding use of AI and duties to disclose such use.



After lunch, Josh Curry (Lewis Brisbois) moderated a panel called Patent Damages at a Crossroads. The panel featured Brandon McFarland (J.S. Held) and Mitch Stockwell (Kilpatrick) discussing an overview of patent damages, including a review of recent Federal Circuit cases. The panelists walked through the methodologies for calculating and proving damages in a patent case, as well as a practical analysis of the relevant factors in calculating a reasonable royalty.

Doug Isenberg (Giga Law) addressed the group in the next session entitled State of the Uniform Domain Dispute Resolution Policy: Where Domain Disputes Stand After 25 years. Mr. Isenberg discussed both the history of the UDRP and its likely future. He also provided the group with



practical guidance on the timing, costs, and logistics of UDRP proceedings. The presentation included a review of recent UDRP cases, as well as statistical data on where UDRP claims are being filed and the outcomes.

Photos from IP Annual Conference



The last session of the day was a professionalism presentation with judges from the United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia. The presentation entitled A View From the Bench: Balancing Zealous Advocacy with Civility in Complex Civil Litigation featured panelists Hon. Leigh Martin May, Hon. William M. Ray, II, Hon. Sarah E. Geraghty, and Hon. Tiffany R. Johnson and was moderated by Jason H. Cooper (The Sladkus Law Group) and David Hricik (Mercer University). The panelists discussed common issues with written discovery, including related to proportionality and appropriateness of responses and objections, and depositions, including improper instructions not to answer and unprepared 30(b)(6) designees. The judges also discussed use of AI by practitioners and provided a word of caution to attorneys who utilize AI to prepare documents submitted to the court.

Attendees also had opportunities throughout the day to socialize and network with presenters and other attendees, including at a reception at the Glenn Hotel following the presentations.

The IP Section Executive Committee looks forward to the next Annual Conference and would like to receive feedback from Section members about future conferences. Please complete a [short survey](#) to provide your input.



Photos from Networking Reception at the Glenn Hotel



The IP Section Newsletter is prepared by the State Bar of Georgia's Sections Department and the IP Section Communications Committee. If you are interested in serving on the Communications Committee or have questions about Section events, please contact Communications Committee Chair, Rachel Young Fields, at rfields@huntermaclean.com.

IP Section Members Return to Volunteer at PAWS Atlanta

In May, IP Section members (and their friends and family) returned to volunteer at PAWS Atlanta, a no-kill animal shelter in Atlanta. Volunteers helped move items and clean the organization's shelter storage and supply shed. Thanks to these efforts, PAWS Atlanta staff members were able to inventory supplies, purge materials that needed to be discarded, and reorganize the shed to help their team quickly find what they need to further the organization's mission. A PAWS staff member told volunteers that PAWS Atlanta could not have tackled this huge project without help from the IP Section. As a reward for their hard work, the volunteers were able to spend time socializing with the dogs and cats awaiting adoption.

