



IPO Board of Directors Commitment Form

(To be signed upon election and re-election.)

The Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring the long-term success of IPO (the “Organization”) and ensuring that the Organization fulfills its vision and principles. Thus, each member of the Board of Directors pledges to personally contribute needed resources, time, and talent to the Organization and other IPO-related organizations. The Executive Committee shall evaluate and revise the responsibilities of members of the Board of Directors every two years. This list of responsibilities will be confirmed by majority vote of the Board.

Board member responsibilities are defined below. Board members are expected to carry out these duties in good faith and with the care of a reasonable person in similar circumstances.

1. Support the IPO Vision and Principles.
2. Read and understand the financial statements and otherwise assist the Board in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibility.
3. Attend or send a proxy to at least sixty percent of board meetings in person or by phone.
4. Be an advocate for the Organization.
5. Promote the Organization in ways appropriate to the profession.
6. Maintain non-public IPO information in confidence.
7. In addition to membership, make a financial or other contribution to IPO or the IPO Education Foundation appropriate to the Board member’s circumstances.
8. Obtain various means of support for the Organization, such as sponsorships, advertisers, exhibitors, speakers, etc. in alignment with Board members’ corporate obligations
9. Identify potential new members of the Organization and assist in member recruitment efforts.
10. Participate in strategic planning activities.
11. Serve on at least one committee or task force each year, if vacancies allow.
12. Avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest.
13. Participate in/attend the Organization’s conferences and meetings.
14. Promptly notify the organization if the board member is no longer able to satisfy any of his/her other responsibilities or fiduciary obligations.

Fiduciary responsibilities are defined below. Board members are expected to carry out these duties in good faith and with the care of a reasonable person in similar circumstances.

1. Duty of Care – Board members should be reasonably informed about the Organization’s activities and participate in decision making.
2. Duty of Loyalty – Board members should act in good faith to advance the interests of the Organization. A board member should not participate in board discussions and decisions when they as an individual have a conflict of interest (i.e., their personal interests conflict with organizational interests, or they serve multiple organizations whose interests conflict).
3. Duty of Obedience – Board members should comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws; adhere to the Organization’s bylaws; and remain the guardians of the Vision and Principles.

IPO’s Vision

As owners of intellectual property, we believe that intellectual property rights accelerate the innovation, creativity, and investment necessary to address major global challenges and improve lives. We strive to maximize innovation across all industries and improve lives throughout the world by fostering high quality rights, and effective, harmonized systems to obtain and enforce those rights, on behalf of all our members.

IPO Principles

1. We represent the interests of IP owners.
2. We believe IP rights drive innovation, which creates economic prosperity.
3. We believe that valid and enforceable IP rights are fundamental to both developed and emerging economies.
4. We believe that advancing IP owners’ interests requires global dialogue and cooperation.
5. We seek to transparently address the needs of all members, allow for professional development and networking opportunities for members, and facilitate the ongoing exchange of information pertinent to developments in the law and the profession.
6. We are committed to developing a diverse pipeline of leaders.
7. We aim to ensure that IP systems apply without advantage or discrimination to all industries and all technologies.
8. We believe in a sustained education focus for experts, professionals, and the public to understand and appreciate the benefits of developed IP systems.
9. We strive to promote improvements and eliminate abuses in IP systems.
10. We seek to maintain ongoing, constructive engagement with government offices, regulators, and legislative bodies that address IP issues.
11. We choose to lead IP initiatives or influence IP policy when there is sufficient Board support to justify IPO involvement.

Personal Commitment

I (*print name*) _____ am willing to make every effort to fulfill the responsibilities outlined above.

Signature: _____

Date: _____