



# Impact Report

2022 - 2023





# Welcome



Dear IPO friends and colleagues,

We are excited to share with you the IPO Impact Report, a new publication that looks back on the achievements and activities of the past year.

As a broad-based industry association, IPO is uniquely positioned to advocate for an IP system that promotes innovation and the development of new technologies, provide member services to educate and shape the IP bar, foster diverse engagement, and develop the next generation of leaders.

In this publication, activities dedicated to influencing policy in the U.S. and internationally and the partnerships that enabled us to educate a broader audience are highlighted. We celebrate the members who volunteered their time to work on committees, develop new resources for members, mentor their colleagues, and share best practices. IPO membership, a global community of in-house and outside counsel, inventors, and patent agents from all industries and fields of technology, is now more than 12,000 strong and making a difference in the future of the IP profession and the innovation ecosystem.



Karen Cochran  
IPO President



Jessica Landacre,  
IPO Executive Director

We thank everyone who helped advance our mission in 2022, from the Board of Directors, to committee leaders, to our partners and sponsors and our members who made time to engage with their colleagues and peers in the IPO community. We look forward to seeing you in Boston, MA on September 10-12 at the IPO Annual Meeting.

Karen Cochran, President  
Jessica Landacre, Executive Director

## Report Highlights

- ✓ Helped lead *international harmonization activities* including efforts to implement a global assignment, expand e-signatures, and institute common definitions to frame AI policy discussions.
- ✓ *Filed 11 submissions with the USPTO* responsive to requests for comments on topics including artificial intelligence, patent and trademark fees, ensuring robust and reliable patent rights, expanding opportunities to practice, patent subject matter eligibility guidance, and electronic issuance of trademark registrations.
- ✓ *Filed three amicus briefs* at U.S. Supreme Court in two trademark cases and one patent case.
- ✓ Developed a partnership with WIPO to host a public virtual event "*Exploring the Future of Innovation Driven Growth and the Role of IP.*"
- ✓ *Collaborated with USPTO and Department of Commerce* on the Women Entrepreneur Initiative (WE) to offer a pilot mentoring program.
- ✓ *Published New Toolkits and Resources:* Diversity in Innovation Toolkit 2.0; Practical Guide to Diversity and Inclusion: Hiring and Retention; Diversity in the European Innovation Industry and IP Profession; The Myth of Meritocracy in Law Firms and Corporate Legal Departments; Chief IP Counsel in a Box Toolkit.



# US Advocacy



IPO advocates for high-quality and enforceable intellectual property rights, and predictable legal systems for all industries and technologies. In the U.S., IPO's government relations program touches all branches of the federal government, including the U.S. Congress, the White House and executive branch agencies, and the judiciary. IPO seeks to foster cross-industry collaboration on key policy issues to improve the IP system and to focus on a wide range of IP rights and technologies.

Priority policy issues include ensuring fair, balanced, predictable, and efficient administration of USPTO post-grant proceedings; opposing TRIPS modifications and advocating for evidence-based discussions regarding these modifications and compulsory licensing measures; combatting the sale of counterfeit goods and misuse of brands; clarifying that the right to repair does not authorize infringement of IP rights; urging clarity in how secrecy of trade secrets and confidential information can be maintained in light of proposals to ban non-compete clauses that could impact non-disclosure agreements; confronting IP issues arising from rapidly evolving artificial intelligence technology, including inventorship, ownership, and sufficiency of disclosure; and following case law developments and possible legislative action on patent subject matter eligibility.



Samantha Aguayo  
IPO Deputy Exec. Director &  
Chief Policy Counsel

## 2022-2023 Accomplishments:



- Helped to secure full funding for USPTO in FY2022.
- Developed and communicated positions to help balance diverse industry viewpoints concerning the Restoring the America Invents Act and PTAB Reform Act.
- Supported INFORM Consumers Act, which passed Congress in December 2022.
- Filed 11 submissions with the USPTO responsive to requests for comments on topics including artificial intelligence, patent and trademark fees, ensuring robust and reliable patent rights, expanding opportunities to practice, patent subject matter eligibility guidance, and electronic issuance of trademark registrations.
- Filed three amicus briefs at U.S. Supreme Court in two trademark cases and one patent case.
- Filed comments with FTC regarding non-compete clause rule.



# International Advocacy



IPO advocates in the US and around the world on behalf of members to judicial, legislative, and administrative bodies for predictable legal systems that are responsive, cost-effective, and efficient.

IPO advocates for harmonization of IP laws and procedures through its participation in the Industry Trilateral and IP5 Industry (which address harmonization of patent laws and procedures) and in stakeholder meetings, such as those with the ID5 and TM5 (which address industrial design and trademark issues). Through its committees, IPO also monitors international developments in IP, prepares comment letters to be filed around the world, holds meetings with government officials and stakeholder groups here and abroad, organizes webinars on trending topics, and submits comments for consideration by the U.S. Trade Representative as part of the Special 301 Report process. It also regularly participates in meetings at the World Intellectual Property Organization.



Tom Valente  
Senior Director for Global  
Affairs



IPO meets with Japan Intellectual Property  
Association (JIPA) in Washington, DC

## 2022-2023 Accomplishments:

- Opposed modifications to TRIPS and held meetings with US Government officials to articulate position.
- Helped lead international harmonization activities including efforts to implement a global assignment, expand e-signatures, and institute common definitions to frame AI policy discussions.
- Held European Practice Committee Conference and Virtual Innovation Dialogue with China.
- Submitted comments to USTR on IP issues around the globe.
- Weighed-in on compulsory licensing issues in different jurisdictions.
- Filed comments in, for example, China and Europe.
- Held joint event with WIPO on IP and Innovation.



# Meetings & Events



IPO offers a variety of in-person and virtual education and networking opportunities throughout the year where IP professionals from around the world come together to discuss strategies, trends, and best practices. Continuing legal education (CLE) course content is available on topics including patents, trademarks, copyrights, industrial designs, trade secrets, artificial intelligence, ethics, diversity and inclusion, professional development, and corporate IP management and operations.



Megan Griggs  
Director of Meetings & Events



**IP Chat Channel™** - IPO's online education resource. Live and on-demand webinars are free for all IPO members. IPO hosted 26 webinars in 2022 and 14 in the first half of 2023.

**IPOwners Spring Summit™** - The annual one-day conference is designed to allow all legal professionals to understand developments relevant to, and the needs of, in-house IP counsel in today's business environment.

**IPO Annual Meeting** - The annual three-day meeting offers a mix of 25+ educational programs and workshops, committee meetings, networking opportunities, exhibits, and more.



Mark your calendar for the 2024 IPOwners Spring Summit™ in Washington, DC on March 7

# Committee Conferences



**IPO committees are active in hosting meetings and events around the world along with webinars that can be viewed from anywhere.**

- **European Practice Committee Conference** - held its annual conference in 2022 in Munich, Germany with 60 attendees. Mark your calendar for October 20, 2023 in The Hague for the next meeting.
- **Asian Practice Committee** - hosted several virtual *Innovation Dialogue Meetings* with China in 2022. 2023 meetings will be announced soon.
- **Corporate IP Management Committee** - held two virtual roundtables in 2022. One on “*IP Work Trends Post COVID-19*” and the other on “*Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Effective Corporate IP Management and Operations.*”
- **Leadership Development Committee** - hosted a webinar on “*Flexible & Effective Leadership Strategies*” in 2022 and a social networking event with small group discussions on topics such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management.
- **Industrial Designs Committee** - co-organized *USPTO's annual Design Day*. The event was held virtually in 2022 and in-person at the USPTO in 2023.
- **Diversity & Inclusion Committee** - Hosted two webinars on the *Myth of Meritocracy* in 2022 and 2023.



European Practice Committee Leaders







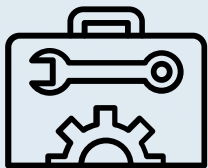
# Advancing Diversity Equity & Inclusion



Intellectual  
Property  
Owners  
Association

IPO is dedicated to creating a more inclusive innovation ecosystem and developing the next generation of diverse leaders. IPO committees, such as the Women in IP Committee, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, Leadership Committee, Patent Agent Committee, and Corporate IP Management Committee, among others, have developed outstanding resources for organizations and individuals to make a difference.

## 2022-2023 Education and Resources:



Diversity in  
Innovation Toolkit



Practical Guide to  
Diversity & Inclusion  
in the Legal  
Profession: Hiring &  
Retention



Diversity in the  
European Innovation  
Industry and IP  
Profession



## Diversity Pledge

IPO is partnering with USIPA to promote the Diversity Pledge.



Jessica Landacre, Executive Director speaks at USPTO Women Entrepreneur event. Photo Credit: Jay Premack/USPTO

## Webinars

- How to be an Ally: Part One, Part Two, and Part Three
- Flexible & Effective Leadership Strategies Post-2020
- Introduction to Myth of the Meritocracy in the Legal Profession
- The Myth of the Meritocracy Part 2 – countering myths and Overcoming Bias
- Operationalizing DEI: A Solutions-Based Strategy
- IPO's D&I Committee's Hiring and Retention Guide
- More webinars can be found on IPO.ORG



# Developing IP Leaders



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**IPO provides training, mentoring, and relationship building that develops a diverse pipeline for the next generation of leaders!**

## 2022-2023 Accomplishments:

- Developed a new **Mentor-a-Member** program that matches experienced IPO members with early career members in all fields and industries of IP. 97 pairs matched.
- Collaborated with the USPTO and Department of Commerce **Women Entrepreneur Initiative (WEI)** to offer a pilot mentoring program.
- Created a **New Leadership Development Committee**.
- Partnered with WIPO Global Innovation Index 2022-Exploring the future of innovation-driven growth and the role of IP.



## Fostering Diverse Engagement



### **IPO Fosters Diverse Engagement in Policy, Best Practices and Benchmarking and Networking!**

- Supported IDEA Act to authorize USPTO to collect demographic information for patent applicants on a voluntary basis to track progress in expanding diversity and inclusion in patenting.
- Encouraged members to provide demographic information and nominate themselves or colleagues to speak on IPO programs.
- Submitted comments to USPTO supporting expanding STEM requirements for patent bar.
- Hosted virtual networking events for members unable to travel.
- Created Patent Agents Committee and five diversity and equity resource groups. ([See the full list and how to join!](#))
- Created [DEI webpage](#) on IPO website to improve access to resources!
- Education on section 101 legislation with thought leaders from different perspectives.





# IPO Education Foundation



IPO Education Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3, was formed in 2000 as a subsidiary of Intellectual Property Owners Association. IPOEF is devoted to programs to promote innovation and creation by, within, and for underrepresented communities to drive innovation and economic prosperity in these communities and beyond.

## IPOEF Led Programs:

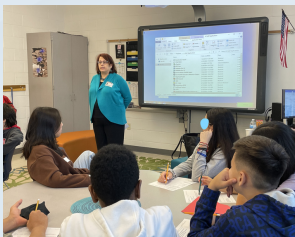


### Stroke of Genius® podcast

- Top Episodes Include:
- [Reading, Writing, and... Intellectual Property?](#)
- [Diversifying the Future of Innovation](#)
- [The Healing Power of Patents](#)

## Student Programs:

- [Free IP Patch Curriculum](#)
- TryEngineering Together E-Mentor Program
- Scholarships for students to attend invention summer camp
- [Collaborations](#) with partners to create educational materials like [Lessons in IP Strategy](#)



Mercedes Meyer (IPOEF Board Member, Banner Witcoff), left, at Innovation Fair January 2023 and middle school students, right, who attended the invention and IP summer camp 2022

**Become Involved:**  
[www.ipoeef.org](http://www.ipoeef.org)  
 or email [Foundation@ipo.org](mailto:Foundation@ipo.org)

## 2022 Award Celebration

Annual Awards Celebration highlight accomplishments in the fields of IP, innovation, and creativity. IP practitioners, IP professionals, government officials, and attendees from all over the world take part in this fundraising event to support the work of IPOEF.



**Inventor of the Year**  
 Luke Haverhals  
 Natural Fiber Welding



**Inventor of the Year**  
 Aaron Amstutz  
 Natural Fiber Welding



**Executive of the Year**  
 Sanjay Mehrotra  
 Micron Technology, Inc



**IP Champion**  
 Dr. Gary Michelson  
 Michelson Institute for IP



**Inspiration Award**  
 Terrica Carrington  
 Copyright Alliance

# Board of Directors



3M Innovative Properties - *Yen Florczak*  
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Tenneco Inc. - *John Cheek*  
The Boeing Co. - *Tanuja Garde*  
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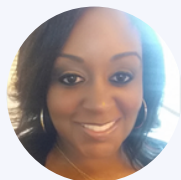
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