



## PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

**TIME**

5:30-7:00PM

**FUNCTION**

**WELCOME RECEPTION**

*Sponsored by Li & N Intellectual Property Agency Ltd.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

**TIME**

8:00-8:30AM

**FUNCTION**

**REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**

*Breakfast Sponsored by Finnegan*

8:30-9:30AM

**WELCOME REMARKS & FIRESIDE CHAT WITH USPTO ACTING COMMISSIONERS**

Welcome Remarks & Moderator:



**John Cheek**

Vice President & Chief Intellectual Property Counsel, Tenneco LLC  
President, Intellectual Property Owners Association

Speakers:



**Valencia Martin-Wallace**

Acting Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office



**Dan Vavonese**

Acting Commissioner for Trademarks  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

9:45-10:45AM

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**Damages and Injunctions: How Jurisdictions' Primary Remedies Incentivize Innovation and Investment**

*Session Room Sponsored by Tradespace, Inc.*

*Organizing Committee: U.S. Patent Litigation*

As corporations compete globally and patent litigation battles are fought across major country or regional jurisdictions, a key consideration in selection of forum is the availability of the patentee's preferred remedy. This session will explore how patent adjudication systems incentivize innovation and R&D investment by prioritizing damages or injunctive relief in patent litigation. Panelists will focus on (a) the effect that remedies have on patent litigation strategies, particularly the choice of forum, and (b) the consequences for multinational businesses in R&D and major capital investment.

Speakers:

Kirby Lee, Ecolab Inc.

Rasmus Jørgensen, NERA Economic Consulting

Heidi Nadel, HP Inc.

Jeremy Younkin, Foley Hoag LLP



## THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

### TIME

9:45-10:45AM

### FUNCTION

#### **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

##### **(Non?) Confidentiality of On-Sale Products**

*Organizing Committees: European Practice, U.S. Patent Law, and Asian Practice*

A recent Enlarged Board of Appeal case at the EPO (G1/23) considered the question of whether or not a product placed on the market is a prior art disclosure even if the composition/internal structure is not analyzable/reproducible. The Board issued its decision on July 2, 2025, and concluded that a product put on the market cannot be excluded from the state of the art. Panelists will compare and contrast the prior art effect in Europe, the US, and Asia of on-sale products where the composition is not discernible from the product itself.

#### Speakers:

Steve Benjamin, DuPont

Yen Florczak, 3M Innovative Properties Co.

Tom Turner, Abel + Imray

10:45AM-11:00AM

#### **COFFEE BREAK**

*Coffee Breaks Sponsored by Ankar AI*

11:00AM-12:00PM

#### **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

##### **Employees, Contractors, Trade Secrets, and Derivations: Strategies for Avoiding Disputes**

*Session Room Sponsored by Tradespace, Inc.*

*Organizing Committee: U.S. Post-Grant Patent Office Practice and Trade Secrets*

Most allegations of trade-secret misappropriation or derivation of invention stem from former employees, suppliers, and joint-venture partners. The departure of employees with access to confidential information, leading to suspected leaks or misuse, or performance disputes in technology licensing agreements frequently cause disputes. These risks can be minimized through clear contracting and education—before, during, and at the end of the parties' relationship. Panelists will discuss best practices for preventing misappropriation, capturing inventions, and clarifying IP ownership. They will also cover what must be shown to prevail on a trade-secret, ownership, or derivation claim, as well as recent case-law developments.

Moderator: Jeffrey Totten, Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP

#### Speakers:

Betsy Fenske, HP Inc.

David Roadcap, Amgen, Inc.

Rachael Rodman, Thompson Hine LLP

Michael Oblon, Jones Day



## THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

### TIME

11:00AM-12:00PM

### FUNCTION

#### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

##### Schedule A Litigation

*Organizing Committees: U.S. Trademark Law & Litigation and Anti-counterfeiting & Anti-piracy*  
Online counterfeiting operates at digital speed with infringers appearing, transacting, and vanishing in days, while judicial proceedings move at a far slower pace. This structural mismatch presents an ongoing challenge for brand protection, but Schedule A litigation has emerged as one of the few mechanisms capable of meeting that challenge. Its power lies in its ability to stop infringement at scale through tools such as expedited discovery, temporary restraining orders, and asset restraints, delivering meaningful financial deterrence when other measures fall short. Though Schedule A cases have been a fixture of IP enforcement for over a decade, their growing volume and variety have prompted fresh debate about their proper role. This panel will explore how courts can embrace procedural innovation and use existing legal tools to their fullest extent, including examining when Schedule A litigation is the right choice, what cost-effective alternatives exist, and what best practices brand owners should follow.

##### Speakers:

Berel Lakovitsky, Greer, Burns & Crain Ltd.

Erica Reed, HP Inc.

Michael Sweeney, Corsearch

12:00PM-1:00PM

#### NETWORKING LUNCH

*Lunch Sponsored by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*

1:15PM-2:15PM

#### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

##### Best Practices for Foreign Filing Requirements Around the World

*Session Room Sponsored by Tradespace, Inc.*

*Organizing Committees: European Practice, Asian Practice, U.S. Patent Office Practice*

Various countries around the world require Foreign Filing Licenses to be issued before filing patents outside their jurisdictions. However, it is now very common for patent applications to be filed on behalf of multiple inventors that reside in multiple different countries. Penalties for a failure to obtain a foreign filing license can range from a loss of patent rights to criminal sanctions for inventors. This session will provide an update as to the Foreign Filing License requirements for various nations around the world and to discuss best practices when it comes to international filings and obtaining Foreign Filing Licenses.

##### Speakers:

Ashwani Balayan, ALG India Law Offices LLP

Tiffany Logan, GE Aerospace

Lars Nilsson, Tenneco LLC

Troy Prince, RTX Corporation



**THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026**

**TIME**

**1:15PM-2:15PM**

**FUNCTION**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**Branding and Ownership in the Age of Generative AI: Protecting Trademarks and Navigating Emerging IP Risks**

*Organizing Committee: U.S. Trademark Law & Litigation*

Generative AI is transforming the way brands are created, perceived, and protected - automating logo and slogan development, shaping consumer experiences, and introducing novel risks to trademark owners. As AI increasingly contributes to brand-building efforts, it also raises foundational legal questions around ownership, authorship, and liability for AI-generated content. This panel will examine how AI challenges traditional trademark principles, particularly in relation to distinctiveness, source identification, and likelihood of confusion. Panelists will also address who owns AI-generated brand assets, who is liable when they infringe, and how these issues may reshape enforcement strategies, licensing practices, and IP portfolio management.

Moderator: Jennifer Fraser, Dykema Gossett PLLC

Speakers:

Matthew Homyk, Blank Rome LLP

Anne Marie Longobucco, Fenwick & West LLP

Sara Suleiman, HP Inc.

**2:15-2:45PM**

**COFFEE BREAK**

*Coffee Breaks Sponsored by Ankar AI*

**2:45-3:45PM**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**AI Meets the Fine Print: Data Use, Risk, and Responsibility**

*Session Room Sponsored by Tradespace, Inc.*

*Organizing Committee: AI, Data & New Emerging Technologies*

This session will focus on how organizations that are developing, deploying, or using AI must carefully manage data privacy, bias, security, transparency, and compliance risks while navigating evolving regulations. The contractual agreements involved during development, deployment, or use of AI are critical in capturing these various legal issues. The speakers will discuss these risks while balancing against evolving regulations. They will also discuss the newly created Data Use Agreement Template recently created by IPO's AI, Data & New Emerging Technologies Committee. This document is a model contract designed to help organizations set clear rules for sharing, accessing, and protecting non-public or sensitive data. This DUA Template establishes definitions, responsibilities, and safeguards for both the party disclosing the data and the party receiving it. The DUA Template covers permitted uses of data, security requirements, confidentiality, intellectual property, compliance with privacy laws, and processes for handling breaches, audits, and termination.

Moderator: Shruti Costales, Shruti Law PLLC

Speakers:

Avery Blank, Qualcomm Incorporated

Caroline Pinkston, Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Corey Salsberg, Novartis



**THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026**

**TIME**

**2:45-3:45PM**

**FUNCTION**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**Difficult Decision-Making for Legal Leaders**

*Organizing Committee: Leadership Development*

This session will follow a format similar to the iconic radio show Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me! Presenters will explore a number of legal issues that leaders must weigh in conjunction with leading a legal team and organizations. Some of the issues that may be discussed include:

How should leaders evaluate and make decisions when under stress? How much input should they receive from the team or from outside resources? How should one balance the speed of needing to make a decision versus achieving desired accuracy? How much data is too much (or not enough) data? How does data counter-balance with intuition? How does one evaluate all these decisions while maintaining integrity internally and when viewed by others, including those reporting to the decision-maker, those to whom the decision-maker reports, and/or third parties outside of decision-makers direct chain of command?

Game Show Host: Sandra Wunderlich, Tucker Ellis LLP

Contestants:

Michael King, Caterpillar Inc.

Ceyda Maisami, HP Inc.

Erik Perez, Shell USA, Inc.

Special Audience Participant: Alex Long, GE Aerospace

**3:45-4:00PM**

**COFFEE BREAK** *Sponsored by Ankar AI*

**4:00-5:00PM**

**ETHICS SESSION: Intersection of AI and Intellectual Property Law: Navigating the Ethical and Evidentiary AI Maze**

*Session Room Sponsored by Tradespace, Inc.*

*Organizing Committee: AI Tools Sub-Committee/Task Force*

This presentation explores the wide-ranging ethical challenges and complex evidentiary issues that arise with the use of AI and Intellectual Property Law. As AI tools are used for tasks such as patent drafting, legal research, reverse engineering, and searching, attorneys must navigate ethical duties of competence, confidentiality, and candor toward the USPTO and other tribunals. The presentation will cover the risks associated with the use of AI tools and foundational evidentiary concerns through various real-world examples and hypotheticals. The session will also provide some best practices for responsibly using, verifying, and challenging AI-generated evidence.

Moderator: Tammy Pennington Rhodes, Supercharger

Speakers:

Emil Ali, McCabe & Ali, LLP

Kimberly Kelleher, US Patent & Trademark Office

Shankar Krithivasan, Qualcomm Incorporated

Ed Ryan

# 2026 IPOwners Spring Summit™



March 18-19, 2026

Westin Hotel  
Washington, DC

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

**TIME**

5:00-6:30PM

**FUNCTION**

**CLOSING RECEPTION**

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