



PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

TIME
5:30-7:00PM

FUNCTION
WELCOME RECEPTION

Sponsored in part 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

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.

Rachael Rodman, Thompson Hine LLP

Michael Oblon, Jones Day

2026 IPOwners Spring Summit™



March 18-19, 2026

Westin Hotel
Washington, DC

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
Schedule A cases are a powerful tool increasingly being used by brand owners to obtain temporary restraining orders against alleged online counterfeiters and to seize their assets on an ex parte basis. The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois has become the locus for most of these filings. However, some parties and judges are starting to push back by questioning whether the defendants are sufficiently related to each other and properly joined. The panel will address whether Schedule A cases are likely to continue to be viable and, if not, whether there are other cost-effective avenues to pursue online counterfeiting.

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

Additional speaker to be announced



THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

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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

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 Krishnaswan, Qualcomm Incorporated

Ed Ryan

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5:00-6:30PM

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CLOSING RECEPTION

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