



Intellectual  
Property  
Owners  
Association

PATENTS | TRADEMARKS | COPYRIGHTS  
TRADE SECRETS | INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS  
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

# 2026 IPO ANNUAL MEETING

September 27-29, 2026

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel

## Featured Speakers



**Konstantinos Georgaras**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Canadian Intellectual  
Property Office



**John Squires**  
Under Secretary of  
Commerce for Intellectual  
Property and Director  
of the U.S. Patent and  
Trademark Office



This must-attend event brings together IP professionals from corporations, law firms, government, academia, and service providers from around the world to discuss strategies, trends, and best practices. The annual meeting offers a mix of educational programs, committee meetings, networking opportunities, and exhibits.

[www.ipo.org/am2026](http://www.ipo.org/am2026)



# Program at a Glance

Time (ET)	Sunday, Sept. 27	Monday, Sept. 28	Tuesday, Sept. 29	
6:15 a.m.		IPO Fun Run/Walk (breakfast provided)		
7:00 a.m.		Breakfast & IP Expo		
7:30 a.m.			Chief IP Counsel Breakfast (by invitation only)	
8:00 a.m.		Welcome & Keynote by John Squires, Director of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office		
8:30 a.m.				
9:00 a.m.				
9:15 a.m.				
9:30 a.m.				
10:00 a.m.		<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> – AI Search & Analysis (Patents and Trademarks) – U.S. Design Case Law Update	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> – Leveraging Letters of Consent & Coexistence Agreements for Trademark Portfolios – Termination Rights Post- <i>Vetter</i> – Everything Reexam: EPR Updates and Practice	
10:15 a.m.				
10:30 a.m.			Coffee Break & IP Expo	
11:00 a.m.	IPO Board of Directors Meeting (Board Members and Alternates Only)	Coffee Break/IP Expo/IP Hub	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> – Protecting the Integrity of the Federal Trademark Register – Global Enablement and Disclosure Strategies for AI-Related Patent Applications – Preliminary Injunctions and Discovery Practice Around the World	
11:15 a.m.				
11:30 a.m.		<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> – Inducement & Indirect Infringement: Navigating Launch Risk Across Industries – The Real Impact of Office AI Tools on Trademark Prosecution – IP Risks and Strategic Considerations When Using AI to Generate Software Code		
12:00 p.m.				
12:15 p.m.			Lunch, IP Expo, & IP Hub	Lunch & IP Expo
12:30 p.m.				<b>Workshops</b> – Self Awareness, Bias, and Ethical Practice in the Modern IP Profession – How In-House IP Departments are Deploying AI
1:00 p.m.				
1:30 p.m.				
1:45 p.m.				
2:00 p.m.		IPO Connect: Committee Open Houses	Welcome Lounge Featuring IPO's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Resource Groups	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> – Worldwide Design Law Updates – Trademark Infringement & Online Enforcement – Protection of Software IP
2:15 p.m.				
2:30 p.m.				
3:00 p.m.			Coffee Break & IP Expo	
3:15 p.m.				
3:30 p.m.	IPO Connect: Committee Open Houses		<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> – Unconventional Trademarks, Trade Dress, Design Patents & Industrial Designs – Training Data, Trade Secrets, and Transparency in the AI Era – Joint Licensing Models	
4:00 p.m.				
4:15 p.m.				
4:30 p.m.	Welcome & Fireside Chat with Konstantinos Georganas, CEO of Canadian Intellectual Property Office		<b>Ethics in the Age of AI</b>	
5:00 p.m.				
5:30 p.m.				
6:00 p.m.				
6:30 p.m.				
7:00 p.m.	IPO Board of Directors & Special Guests Dinner (by invitation only)	Welcome Reception		
7:30 p.m.				
8:00 p.m.		Dinner Reception at Steam Whistle Brewing	Reception hosted by CIPA	
8:30 p.m.				
9:00 p.m.				
9:30 p.m.				





# Program

as of 6/22/2026

## Sunday, September 27

### TIME

### FUNCTION

11:00AM  
2:00PM

**IPO Board of Directors Meeting**  
*board members and alternates only*

1:00PM  
6:00PM

**Registration and Name Badge Pick-up**

1:00PM  
4:00PM

**Welcome Lounge**  
*Featuring IPO's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee's Resource Groups*

2:00PM  
3:00PM

**IPO Connect: Committee Open Houses** (Open to all registrants)  
*list of committees meeting coming soon*

3:15PM  
4:15PM

**IPO Connect: Committee Open Houses** (Open to all registrants)  
*list of committees meeting coming soon*

4:30PM  
6:00PM

**Welcome & Fireside Chat with Konstantinos Georgaras, CEO, Canadian Intellectual Property Office**



**Konstantinos Georgaras** is the Chief Executive Officer at the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO), where he provides strategic direction and leadership and ensures the provision of world-class intellectual property services by granting IP rights and providing IP awareness and information. Mr. Georgaras has extensive experience spanning strategic, economic and legislative policy, with direct responsibilities for IP, innovation, insolvency and industrial and labor market policies. Mr. Georgaras holds a Master of Arts in Public Administration from Carleton University and an Executive Certificate in Public Leadership from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

6:00PM  
8:00PM

**Welcome Reception**  
*Sponsored by Li & N Intellectual Property Agency LTD*

7:00PM  
8:30PM

**IPO Board of Directors and Special Guests Dinner**  
*Sponsored by Torys LLP*

## Monday, September 28

### TIME

### FUNCTION

6:15AM  
7:30AM

**IPO Fun Run/Walk**  
*Sponsored by Banner Witcoff*  
*Grab and go breakfast will be provided; Location: Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel*

7:30AM  
5:00PM

**Registration, Name Badge Pick-up, & CLE Sign-in**

7:30AM  
8:30AM

**Breakfast & IP Expo**  
*Breakfast sponsored by Leydig, Voit & Mayer, Ltd.*





# Program

as of 6/22/2026

## Monday, September 28

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FUNCTION</u>
8:30AM 9:20AM	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Keynote Address by Director John Squires, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office</b></p>  <p><b>John A. Squires</b> is the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. He is also the principal IP advisor to the President and Administration, through the Secretary of Commerce. He has extensive experience in all aspects of IP and emerging companies, across a vast array of scientific and technology disciplines, including patent and trademark asset creation, procurement and acquisition, transactions, licensing, corporate formation, governance and structuring, litigation and regulatory, and risk management matters. Mr. Squires received his B.S. in Chemistry from Bucknell University and his J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.</p>
9:30AM 10:30AM	<p><b>Concurrent Sessions</b></p> <p><b>There's More to Patent Searching Than Finding: AI-Assisted Analysis in Practice</b> <i>Organizing Committees: AI, Data &amp; New Emerging Technologies; U.S. Trademark Office Practice; and Patent Search</i> This session will review AI search tool capabilities across a range of IP disciplines, including the tools that are employed by the USPTO, and will explore how those tools are reaching beyond the identification of references to include analysis. Speakers will discuss expectations for AI-assisted analysis and how to frame effective prompts for AI tools, and address the advantages and limitations of AI's influence on review and analysis workflows.</p> <p><b>U.S. Design Law Updates: Caselaw, GUI's and Virtual Designs</b> <i>Organizing Committee: Industrial Designs</i> This session will review recent U.S. design law developments. Topics include the USPTO's guidance on protection of GUI's and virtual designs issued this spring; <i>LKQ v. GM</i>; Schedule A cases; and Range of Motion. Speakers will review how these decisions are being implemented at the USPTO and in the courts and offer guidance for next steps.</p>
10:30AM 11:15AM	<p><b>Break, IP Expo, &amp; IP Hub</b> <i>Break sponsored by Leydig, Voit &amp; Mayer, Ltd.</i></p> <p><b>IP Hub Presentation by Ankar AI: 10:35am-10:50am</b> <b>IP Hub Presentation by PCT Korea: 10:55am-11:10am</b></p>
11:15AM 12:15PM	<p><b>Concurrent Sessions</b></p> <p><b>Inducement &amp; Indirect Infringement: Navigating Launch Risk Across Industries</b> <i>Organizing Committees: Pharmaceutical &amp; Biotechnology Issues; Asian Practice; European Practice; and Canadian Practice</i> This session will explore how inducement and contributory infringement are interpreted across key jurisdictions. Beginning with pharmaceutical 'skinny labeling' strategies as a familiar reference point, the panel will broaden to cover cross-industry scenarios, examine how courts look beyond the product label to assess companies' actual market conduct, intent, and how products are ultimately used. It will examine evolving legal standards and practical considerations for managing launch risk.</p> <p><b>The Real Impact of Office AI Tools on Trademark Prosecution Around the World</b> <i>Organizing Committees: International Trademark Law &amp; Practice; AI, Data &amp; New Emerging Technologies; and U.S. Trademark Office Practice</i> This session will examine how AI tools used by IP offices are affecting application outcomes and timelines. AI tools now in active use at leading offices include the USPTO (Class ACT), IP Australia (TM Checker and Smart Assessment Toolkit), and the EUIPO. Speakers will discuss real-world results from early-adopter jurisdictions, lessons learned from implementation, governance and accuracy challenges, and strategic implications for brand owners filing global trademark portfolios.</p>





## Monday, September 28

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FUNCTION</u>
11:15AM 12:15PM	<p><b>Concurrent Sessions (continued)</b></p> <p><b>IP Risks and Strategic Considerations When Using AI to Generate Software Code</b>  <i>Organizing Committees:</i> Software-Related Inventions; Copyright and Related Rights; and Trade Secrets            This session will examine key IP risks associated with AI-generated code. Topics include copyright authorship and ownership issues for AI-generated code; infringement; trade secret risks; risks of third-party/open-source code inclusion; U.S. Copyright Office disclosure and registration considerations when AI-generated code is combined with human-authored code; consequences of inaccurate copyright registrations; and practical governance including documentation, developer guidance, review protocols, and contractual safeguards.</p>
12:15PM 2:15PM	<p><b>Lunch, IP Expo, &amp; IP Hub</b>  <i>Lunch will be provided in the IP Expo Hall during this time frame. There are several activities for attendees to choose from (listed below). Space is limited. Attendees may also use this extended time to network or catch up on work.</i></p> <p><b>IP Hub Presentation by Anaqua: 1:00pm-1:15pm</b>  <b>IP Hub Presentation by Clearstone: 1:20pm-1:35pm</b>  <b>IP Hub Presentation by Black Hills AI: 1:40pm-1:55pm</b></p> <p><b>Workshop: In-House IP Leadership &amp; Influence Development Toolkit 1:00pm-2:00pm</b>  <i>Organizing Committees:</i> Leadership Development and Corporate IP Management &amp; Operations            This workshop will introduce a new resource designed for in-house IP professionals navigating leadership challenges. The toolkit is organized in a “Choose Your Own Adventure” style format, allowing users to engage with it based on scenarios that align best with their needs. Attendees will help shape the final format of the toolkit through facilitated small-group discussions and leave with resources and ideas to support their own leadership development. Specific focus areas include change management, emotional intelligence and self-management, feedback, core leadership skills, organizational intelligence, and career development.</p> <p><b>Workshop: Inventor Rewards and Recognition Survey: Results Panel 1:00-2:00pm</b>  <i>Organizing Committees:</i> Corporate IP Management &amp; Operations; European Practice; and Asian Practice            This workshop will present key findings from IPO’s recent survey on inventor rewards and recognition programs. The session will highlight emerging trends, benchmarking insights, and practical considerations for designing and evolving effective recognition programs across global organizations. Attendees will engage in small-group discussions to exchange perspectives, share experiences, and explore best practices.</p>
2:15PM 3:15PM	<p><b>Concurrent Sessions</b></p> <p><b>Agentic AI for Patent Prosecution: From Coding Agents to Portfolio-Scale Patent Workflows</b>  <i>Organizing Committees:</i> AI, Data &amp; New Emerging Technologies; U.S. Patent Office Practice; and Patent Agents            Recent advances in coding agents are moving AI beyond chat into structured, tool-driven workflows. This session will introduce a model-agnostic framework for applying these methods to patent prosecution, with examples such as portfolio analysis, prosecution triage, claim-support review, and claim charting. Panelists will explore how these workflows can produce reviewable work products while preserving professional judgment, address potential inventorship issues, and conclude with key governance considerations including confidentiality, candor, supervision, auditability, and human review checkpoints.</p> <p><b>Global Update on Colour Marks in Trademark Law</b>  <i>Organizing Committee:</i> International Trademark Law and Practice            This session will provide an overview of recent judicial, legislative, and administrative developments in colour mark protection across key markets. Single colours and colour combinations remain powerful yet challenging forms of non-traditional trademark protection. Speakers will discuss registration standards, enforcement realities, and evolving strategic considerations.</p>





# Program

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## Monday, September 28

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FUNCTION</u>
2:15PM 3:15PM	<p><b>Concurrent Sessions (continued)</b></p> <p><b>AI, Trade Policy, and IP: Navigating the U.S.-China Landscape</b>            This session will examine the rapidly evolving intersection of artificial intelligence, trade, and intellectual property in the U.S. and China. As AI becomes a strategic priority in both jurisdictions, shifting regulatory frameworks, trade policies, and innovation ecosystems are reshaping how IP is developed, protected, and commercialized. Gain insights into key differences and emerging convergence between U.S. and Chinese approaches to AI-related IP, including patenting trends, data governance, and technology transfer considerations. The session will also explore how geopolitical dynamics, export controls, and cross-border collaboration impact IP strategy and risk management for global organizations.</p>
3:15PM 4:00PM	<p><b>Break, IP Expo, &amp; IP Hub</b>  <i>Break sponsored by Leydig, Voit &amp; Mayer, Ltd.</i></p> <p><b>IP Hub Presentation by JPO: 3:20pm-3:35pm</b>  <b>IP Hub Presentation by JPAA: 3:40pm-3:55pm</b></p>
4:00PM 5:00PM	<p><b>Concurrent Sessions</b></p> <p><b>Global Border Enforcement Trends</b>  <i>Organizing Committees: Canadian Practice, Anti-Counterfeiting &amp; Anti-Piracy, Asian Practice, and Industrial Designs</i>            This session will examine border enforcement practices across key regions. It will highlight trends, challenges, and strategies for improving anti-counterfeiting outcomes.</p> <p><b>Life in the Fast Lane: Options for Fast-Track Litigation Around the World</b>  <i>Organizing Committees: European Practice; U.S. Patent Litigation; U.S. ITC; Asian Practice; and Latin American Practice</i>            This session will compare fast-track IP enforcement options across key jurisdictions. The UPC in Europe has maintained a high-speed timeline with first-instance infringement and revocation actions concluding within 12–14 months since opening in June 2023. The U.S. ITC can reach final decisions in 12–16 months. China's administrative enforcement can be particularly fast, and Brazil is developing fast-paced practice in preliminary injunction handling for SEP cases. Speakers will discuss strategic considerations and the advantages and drawbacks of pursuing rapid relief.</p> <p><b>Copyright Claims &amp; Licensing: Risks and Practical Strategies</b>  <i>Organizing Committees: Copyright and Related Rights and U.S. Trademark Law &amp; Litigation</i>            This session will examine common copyright claims and licensing challenges including claims related to fonts, photographs, and use of music in social media. It will provide strategies for responding to claims, structuring effective licensing solutions, and best practices for avoiding infringement.</p>
6:30PM 9:30PM	<p><b>Special Event: Taste of Canada at Steam Whistle Brewery</b>            Annual Meeting attendees are invited to attend a dinner reception at Steam Whistle Brewing, nestled in the heart of downtown Toronto. Guests will enjoy stunning views of the CN Tower and Rodgers Centre, home of the Toronto Blue Jays. The evening will showcase Canadian culture, with a menu inspired by regional flavors. Savor food and beverages while networking with peers in this uniquely Canadian setting.</p> <p><i>Sponsored by Smart &amp; Biggar LLP</i></p>





# Program

as of 6/22/2026

## Tuesday, September 29

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FUNCTION</u>
7:30AM 9:00AM	<b>Chief IP Counsel Breakfast</b> <i>By invitation only</i>
8:00AM 9:15AM	<b>Breakfast &amp; IP Expo</b>
8:00AM 5:00PM	<b>Registration, Name Badge Pick-up, &amp; CLE Sign-in</b>
9:15AM 10:15AM	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b>  <b>Everything Reexam: EPR Updates and Practice</b> <i>Organizing Committees: U.S. Post-Grant Patent Office Practice and U.S. Patent Office Practice Committee</i> <i>Ex parte</i> reexamination (EPR) requests hit an all-time high in 2025 (66% increase over 2024) as IPR/PGR grant rates decline. This session will provide a practical update on EPR trends, procedures, and strategy. It will cover recent data, key distinctions from post-grant proceedings, and effective use cases.  <b>Leveraging Letters of Consent &amp; Coexistence Agreements for Trademark Portfolios</b> <i>Organizing Committee: International Trademark Law &amp; Practice</i> This session will examine the use of consent and coexistence agreements in trademark prosecution in key global markets. It will cover what makes these tools effective, the pros and cons of conditional consent, recent developments and various office practices, drafting strategies to maximize acceptance, and potential later consequences for future trademark registrations and enforcement.  <b>Termination Rights Post-Vetter: Cross-Border Implications of the Fifth Circuit's Decision in Vetter v. Resnik</b> <i>Organizing Committee: Copyright and Related Rights</i> This session will examine the implications of <i>Vetter v. Resnik</i> , which held that where an author's rights arise under U.S. domestic law, termination of a copyright transfer or grant terminates rights worldwide, not just in the U.S. This holding could give individual authors and heirs a significantly more powerful tool for recapitalizing on the value of overseas exploitation of their works. Speakers will discuss potential implications and considerations moving forward.
10:15AM 11:00AM	<b>Break, IP Expo, &amp; IP Hub</b>  <b>IP Hub Presentation by Patsnap: 10:20am-10:35am</b> <b>IP Hub Presentation by Elevate: 10:40am-10:55am</b>
11:00AM 12:00PM	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b>  <b>Global Enablement and Disclosure Strategies for AI-Related Patent Applications</b> <i>Organizing Committees: AI, Data &amp; New Emerging Technologies; Asia Practice; Europe Practice; and Latin American Practice</i> This session will examine how major jurisdictions approach disclosure and enablement for AI-related inventions. It will highlight key legal standards, regional differences, and practical strategies for addressing non-deterministic AI systems. Examples include U.S. enablement case law ( <i>Amgen v. Sanofi</i> , <i>Wands Factors</i> ) applied to non-deterministic AI models; Europe's reproducibility of technical effect under Article 83 EPC; structural, evidentiary, and procedural differences between CNIPA, JPO, and KIPO; strategies to navigate India's 2025 CRI Guidelines and Section 3(k) bar; and Brazil's INPI proposed granular disclosure checklist.





# Program

as of 6/22/2026

## Tuesday, September 29

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FUNCTION</u>
11:00AM 12:00PM	<p><b>Concurrent Sessions (continued)</b></p> <p><b>Protecting the Integrity of the Federal Trademark Register: The USPTO's Evolving Tools, Rules, and Enforcement Strategies</b>  <i>Organizing Committee: U.S. Trademark Office Practice</i>            This session will review recent USPTO enforcement developments and rule changes. It will provide practical insight into compliance and risk management. Topics include USPTO fraud crackdown and register cleanup; expanded audit program using pixel-analysis software to flag digitally altered specimens; full retirement of TEAS and launch of Trademark Center with new fee structure; Madrid Protocol modernization proposals; and Trademark Modernization Act expungement/reexamination proceedings being used at scale.</p> <p><b>A Global Injunction Playbook: Preliminary Relief, Discovery, and Forum Choice in Patent Litigation</b>  <i>Organizing Committee: International Patent Law &amp; Trade</i>            In high-stakes patent disputes, speed, evidence, and forum can determine whether interim relief is a real commercial tool. This session will compare how multiple jurisdictions approach preliminary injunctions and early evidence-gathering. Panelists will discuss what proof is needed, what discovery or targeted evidence tools are available, how urgency and validity issues affect outcomes, and when courts can grant relief with cross-border impact.</p>
12:00PM 1:45PM	<p><b>Lunch &amp; IP Expo</b>  <i>Lunch will be provided in the IP Expo Hall during this time frame. There are several activities for attendees to choose from (listed below). Space is limited. Attendees may also use this extended time to network or catch up on work.</i></p> <p><b>Workshop: Know Thyself: Why Self-Awareness May Be the Most Important Professional Skill Rarely Discussed 12:30pm-1:30pm</b>  <i>Organizing Committees: Women in IP; Wellness; Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion; and Leadership Development</i>            IP professionals are trained to understand extraordinarily complex systems by learning the science and technology behind inventions, mastering intricate legal frameworks, and helping clients navigate domestic and international IP regimes. However, little time is often spent on learning to understand ourselves. The ability to recognize patterns of thinking, feeling, and behaving profoundly shapes how we lead, make decisions, navigate conflict, collaborate, and foster inclusion. This interactive workshop will guide participants through an exercise to uncover the patterns that shape perceptions and interactions and will provide the tools needed to recognize default thinking patterns, expand empathy, and apply awareness to support a more inclusive practice.</p> <p><b>Workshop: How In-house IP Departments are Deploying AI 12:30pm-1:30pm</b>            This workshop will explore how in-house IP departments are actively deploying AI tools to enhance efficiency, decision-making, and strategic value. Led by Chief IP Counsel, the session will feature practical insights from corporate legal leaders on real-world use cases, governance considerations, and evolving best practices. Participants will gain perspective on how their peers are integrating AI into internal workflows, as well as expectations for how outside counsel and law firms are leveraging AI to support IP services. The discussion will highlight opportunities, risks, and future trends shaping the role of AI in IP management.</p>
1:45PM 2:45PM	<p><b>Concurrent Sessions</b></p> <p><b>Worldwide Design Law Updates</b>  <i>Organizing Committee: Industrial Designs</i>            This session will examine major global design law reforms and emerging trends. The UK and India both have pending proposals for design law reform that could harmonize and drastically change how designs are examined and enforced. The EU has already enacted design law reforms with Phase II implementation beginning in July. Australia is reviewing possible changes to their design laws with respect to GUIs and virtual designs while New Zealand already allows their registration. Speakers will discuss recent developments and offer tips on how to implement the current and future changes into a global portfolio strategy.</p>





# Program

as of 6/22/2026

## Tuesday, September 29

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FUNCTION</u>
1:45PM 2:45PM	<p><b>Concurrent Sessions (continued)</b></p> <p><b>Trademark Infringement and Online Enforcement in the AI Era</b>  <i>Organizing Committees: Anti-Counterfeiting &amp; Anti-Piracy and International Trademark Law &amp; Practice</i>            Counterfeit “dupes” are more realistic than ever, online sellers are increasingly using more clever strategies to avoid takedowns, fake raid reports are becoming commonplace, and marketplaces have become inundated with reports of alleged infringement. This session will examine the growing challenges of policing infringement online. Speakers will cover enforcement trends, recent case law, AI detection tools, and best practices for brand protection.</p> <p><b>Protecting Software IP in the AI Era</b>  <i>Organizing Committees: Trade Secrets; U.S. Patent Law; Copyright &amp; Related Rights; Software &amp; Related Inventions</i>            This session will examine the evolving landscape of software IP protection across multiple IP regimes as software becomes more critical across technologies. It will cover copyright protection for software and AI-generated code, inventorship considerations for AI-generated code, challenges and opportunities of trade secret protection as an alternative, post-Alice patent protection, and practical strategies and best practices for safeguarding innovation.</p>
2:45PM 3:15PM	<p><b>Break &amp; IP Expo</b></p>
3:15PM 4:15PM	<p><b>Concurrent Sessions</b></p> <p><b>Training Data, Trade Secrets, and Transparency: Protecting Competitive Advantage in the AI Era</b>  <i>Organizing Committees: AI, Data &amp; New Emerging Technologies; Trade Secrets; and Pharmaceutical &amp; Biotechnology Issues</i>            This session will explore the intersection of trade secret law, privacy regimes, and emerging AI transparency mandates. Learn how companies can protect proprietary AI models, training datasets, and related know-how as trade secrets while meeting disclosure, audit, and explainability obligations. Speakers will also discuss valuing AI-related trade secrets, managing bias and algorithmic accountability requirements, maintaining control over data processors, and negotiating representations and warranties on data quality and provenance in certain technology areas.</p> <p><b>Reducing Patent Friction: Joint Licensing from the 1800s to AI Models Today</b>  <i>Organizing Committees: IP Licensing &amp; Related Issues; AI, Data &amp; New Emerging Technologies; &amp; Standards Setting</i>            This session will trace the evolution of joint licensing models with a focus on the new Shared AI License Foundation (SAIL). Speakers will examine patent pools, aggregators, and other defensive licensing communities.</p> <p><b>All About the Looks: Unconventional Trademarks, Trade Dress, Design Patents &amp; Industrial Designs</b>  <i>Organizing Committees: International Trademark Law and Practice and Industrial Designs</i>            This session will explore the similarities and differences among unconventional trademarks (shapes and colours), trade dress, design patents, and industrial designs from both a U.S. and global perspective. Speakers will discuss strategic considerations for brand owners and designers, enforcement challenges, overlap and conflict issues, recent case law and legislative developments, and best practices for harmonizing these tools in international markets.</p>
4:30PM 5:30PM	<p><b>Ethics in the Age of AI</b>  <i>Organizing Committees: Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion; and AI, Data &amp; New Emerging Technologies</i>            This panel will explore the ethical and practical challenges of using AI in IP law practice, from hiring and conflicts assessment to drafting and evaluating work product. It examines core duties of competence, confidentiality, and candor, alongside supervision obligations under ABA Model Rules 5.1 and 5.3 and Formal Opinion 512. The session highlights risks posed by AI-generated outputs and addresses billing fairness and oversight. Attendees will leave with practical guidance and best practices for responsible AI use.</p>
7:00PM	<p><b>Reception hosted by The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA)</b></p>





# Networking Events

Networking events are an important part of what makes the IPO Annual Meeting so special. Create new connections and build relationships that last by participating in the following networking events.

## Welcome Lounge

*Featuring IPO's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Resource Groups*

**Sunday, September 27, 1:00-4:00pm**

This event will provide opportunities for attendees to learn more about IPO's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee and its Resource Groups. Learn what the committee has been working on and how to get involved. Advance registration is required. Space is limited.

## Welcome Reception

**Sunday, September 27, 6:00-8:00pm**

Renew acquaintances and make new friends by attending the Welcome Reception immediately following the opening session in the Waterfall Garden at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel. Open to all registered attendees.

**Sponsored by: Li & N IP Group**

## Fun Run/Walk

**Monday, September 28, 6:15-7:30am**

Join colleagues for a guided 5K fun run or 3K walk around downtown Toronto. All skill levels welcome. This is not a race. IPO will provide a grab-and-go breakfast. Advance registration required. Space is limited.

**Sponsored by: Banner Witcoff**

## IP Expo Hall

**Monday-Tuesday, September 28-29**

The IP Expo Hall is your go-to destination to discover innovative solutions to your needs. Breakfast, coffee breaks, and lunches will be served in the IP Expo Hall.

## IP Hub

**Monday-Tuesday, September 28-29**

The IP Hub, located in the IP Expo Hall, will feature short presentations during breaks for attendees to learn more about hot topics, products and resources. Presentations will be listed in the program.

## Breakfast & Breaks

**Monday-Tuesday, September 28-29**

Breakfast and coffee breaks will be held in the IP Expo during the meeting. The IP Expo is open to all registered attendees to greet one another, exchange ideas, relax, and grab food and drinks.

**Monday Breakfast and Breaks Sponsored by: Leydig, Voit & Mayer, Ltd.**

## Lunches

**Monday-Tuesday, September 28-29**

Lunch will be served in the IP Expo Hall. Attendees can join colleagues to network and exchange ideas or grab lunch and head to their room for a quick conference call. Lunch is open to all registered attendees.

## Special Event: Taste of Canada at Steam Whistle Brewery

**Monday, September 28, 6:30-9:30pm**

Annual Meeting attendees are invited to attend a dinner reception at Steam Whistle Brewing. Nestled in the heart of downtown Toronto, Steam Whistle Brewing is housed in the historic John Street Roundhouse, a beautifully restored 1929 railway facility that once served Canada's expanding railways. Guests will enjoy stunning views of the CN Tower and Rodgers Centre, home of the Toronto Blue Jays.

The evening will showcase Canadian culture, with a menu inspired by regional flavors. Savor food and beverages while networking with peers in this uniquely Canadian setting.



**Sponsored by: Smart & Biggar LLP**

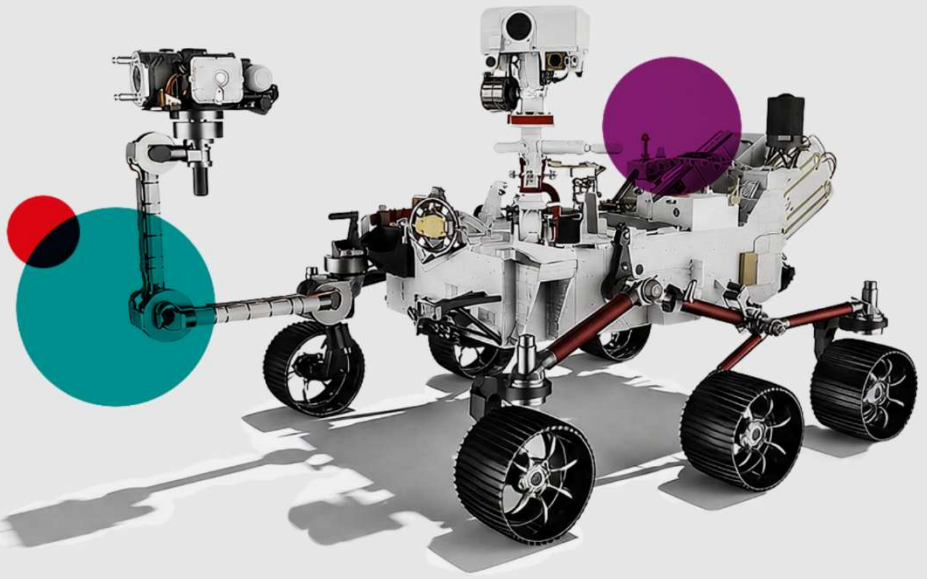
*Transportation* will be provided between the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel and the Steam Whistle Brewery. Buses will begin departing the hotel at 6:00pm. The last bus will return to the hotel by 10:00pm.

*Attire: Casual – bring layers – there is an outside area and it could get chilly at night. Wear comfortable shoes.*



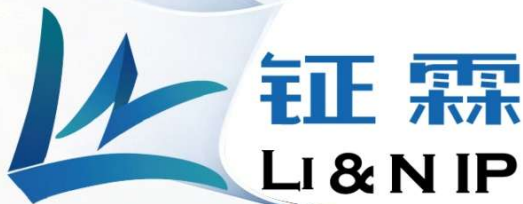
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## CIPA Drinks Reception at IPO Annual Meeting 2026

Join the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys for a networking drinks reception at the 43 Down Bar following the conclusion of the annual meeting



Tuesday 29th September  
6:00pm-9:00pm

43 Down, Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel  
123 Queen St W, Toronto, ON M5H 2M9

Book your place here:



 **CIPA** THE CHARTERED  
INSTITUTE OF  
PATENT ATTORNEYS



# Conference Information

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## Conference Location and Accommodations

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel  
123 Queen St W, Toronto, ON M5H 2M9, Canada  
[Online Reservation Link](#)

IPO has reserved a block of rooms at Sheraton Centre Hotel, where IPO's Annual Meeting is taking place. In order to receive the IPO group rate of **\$415 CAD per night** (single/double occupancy, plus taxes) for a single/double room, reservations must be made **by August 27, 2026** or until the room block is sold out, whichever comes first. After September 1st, rooms will be subject to availability at the standard hotel rate, if available.

**Please note:** IPO does **NOT** use a third-party reservation service. Attendees should **ONLY** make their hotel reservation using IPO's online hotel reservation link above or directly with the hotel.

## Registration Fees & Name Badge Policy

**Registration Fees** include access to all education sessions; CLE Credit to applicable states; networking luncheons, breakfasts, and breaks on Monday and Tuesday (Sept. 28-29); Sunday Welcome Reception (Sept. 27); Monday Evening Reception (Sept. 28), and access to the IP Expo Hall (Sept. 28-29). *IPO does not provide a refund if an attendee chooses not to participate in any of the functions included with their registration fees.*

**IPO Member Group Discount:** Any IPO member organization that pays for 5 or more employees to attend the annual meeting will receive a rate of \$850 per registrant. *Complimentary registrations do not count towards the 5 minimum required to receive this discount. No other discounts apply.* Download the [Member Group Discount Registration Form](#) (fillable PDF) and return completed forms to [meetings@ipo.org](mailto:meetings@ipo.org).

**Guests Pass:** Registrants may register for a guest pass for \$250 USD per person. The fee includes access to the Sunday welcome reception, continental breakfast on Monday and Tuesday, and the Monday evening reception. Guests do not receive CLE credit or access to education sessions. A guest is defined as a spouse, significant other, family member, or friend whose occupation is unrelated to the intellectual property legal profession. A co-worker or associate within the profession is not eligible for a guest pass.

**Academic Rate:** The academic rate is available only to individuals who are full-time employees of an educational institution. Individuals with concurrent employment outside their academic institution are not eligible.

**Government Rate:** The government rate is available only to individuals who are full-time employees of a U.S. or non-U.S. government entity. The employing entity must be officially recognized as a government organization by the individual's country.

**Name Badge Ethics:** Only persons registered for this conference are admitted access to the sessions, materials, and Meeting Platform. Sharing of badges and/or materials is prohibited.

## Cancellation Policy

Cancellations received by Tuesday, September 1, 2026, will be subjected to a \$100 processing fee. No refunds will be given for cancellations received on or after September 1, 2026. Attendees are responsible for making their own hotel/travel arrangements and cancellations. These deadlines for cancellation apply to all registrants. Course materials via the mobile app will be available to those unable to attend who cancel on or after September 1. Refunds will not be given for no-shows. If a registrant is unable to attend, another person from the same organization may substitute upon written request. Please note that fees are not transferable to another IPO meeting or a person that is not from the same organization as the original registrant. We cannot apply a refund credit to another IPO meeting or event. Name badge sharing or splitting is strictly prohibited. IPO reserves the right to cancel this event without liability, and the total amount of any and all liability of the organizers will be limited to a refund of the registration fee. Any fees associated with the cancellation of travel or housing reservations are the exclusive responsibility of conference attendees.





# Conference Information

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## Attendee List

Registration constitutes an agreement by the registrant for IPO to list the registrant's name, organization, and location on the attendee list. The attendee list is available to registrants via the IPO Annual Meeting App, which will open to attendees about **2 weeks** prior to the start of the meeting. An email with attendee's unique username/password for the Annual Meeting App will be emailed to attendees.

## Meeting Photo Waiver and Release Policy

Registration and attendance at, or participation in, IPO meetings and other activities constitutes an agreement by the registrant for IPO to use and distribute (both now and in the future), the registrant or attendee's image or voice in photographs and audio/filming of such events and activities. These photos, audio, or film are for IPO use only and may appear on the IPO Website, newsletter, conference brochures, social media outlets, or other future IPO promotional material. This also includes photos uploaded by attendees using the IPO meeting platform or use of the public chat and forum platforms. For concerns about your image or likeness being used in this manner, please contact [meetings@ipo.org](mailto:meetings@ipo.org).

## Continuing Legal Education Credit

IPO will apply for CLE credit in all states that have MCLE requirements and Ontario. More information will be provided about which jurisdictions approved the Annual Meeting closer to the meeting.

## Conference Attire

The preferred dress attire for conference functions is Business Casual. As meeting room temperatures and personal comfort zones vary widely, it is recommended that you bring a sweater or jacket to the sessions.





# Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title (i.e., Partner, VP) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

List each of the states you're requesting CLE credit for \_\_\_\_\_

## Fees

Enter applicable rate and fees in the column at right and total below.

### 1. Annual Meeting Registrant

MEMBER TYPE	By 07/31/26	8/1 to 9/20	After 9/20/26
IPO Member	\$1,200	\$1,400	\$1,600
Non-Member	\$2,400	\$2,800	\$3,000
Government/Academic <i>No other discounts applies</i>	\$850	\$850	\$850
IPO Member Group Discount*	\$850	\$850	Must register before 9/20
Guest Pass**	\$250/person	\$250/person	\$250/person

#### APPLICABLE RATE:

IPO Member \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Pass \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Non-Member \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Guest(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gov/Academic/Emeritus \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 IPO Member Group Rate\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. I have read and agree to IPO's Meeting Policies.

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Method of Payment

Wire (contact [meetings@ipo.org](mailto:meetings@ipo.org) for wire information)

Credit Card (Registrations sent by fax or email MUST include credit card account information)

American Express      MasterCard      Visa      Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration fees include:** All education sessions; CLE Credit to applicable states; networking luncheons, breakfasts, and breaks on Monday and Tuesday (Sept. 28-29); Sunday Welcome Reception (Sept. 27); Monday Evening Reception (Sept. 28), and access to the IP Expo Hall (Sept. 28-29). *IPO does not provide a refund if an attendee chooses not to participate in any of the functions included with their registration fees.*

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Return form to [meetings@ipo.org](mailto:meetings@ipo.org)

Payment must be received with a completed registration form. Forms received with payment will be processed within one business day. Once payment is processed, a confirmation email will be sent to the email provided above. Refer to the [IPO Annual Meeting website](#) for meeting and cancellation policies. By submitting this form, you agree that you have read IPO's meeting and cancellation policies as noted on our website.

Questions? Visit [ipo.org](http://ipo.org) or call +1 202-507-4500.

