



## **The 1<sup>st</sup> Intellectual Property and Legal Committee held in Tashkent Uzbekistan**

The 1<sup>st</sup> IPLC Meeting and Forum got underway on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April this week in Tashkent Uzbekistan hosted by The National Television and Radio of Uzbekistan (MTRK). The IPLC is the new name of the ex-Copyright Committee enlarged, which is in its 23<sup>rd</sup> edition. The meeting saw the adoption of new resolutions for the legal division for the year to come. The Forum day was marked by the discussion on some burning topics such as the Challenges facing the Broadcasting sector and the tricky question of legal protection. It also saw the discussion on the technological protection afforded to the industry. There was also participation of local Uzbek Intellectual Property Office.

## **The Central Asia Media Forum also held in Uzbekistan**

This year side by side, the ABU in collaboration with our member host, The National Television and Radio of Uzbekistan (MTRK), organized the Central Asia Media Forum in the same venue as the IPLC, i.e. The Wyndham Hotel. The Forum was attended by many delegates especially from the Central Asian countries for which this Forum is targeted. There was a joint opening for both the IPLC and the CAMF. The welcome remarks were given by the CEO of MTRK, Mr Mr Khurshid Mirzakhidov and the opening note was given by the ABU Legal Manager, Mr Nawaz Dookhee.

## **Puma sues Forever 21 for trade dress infringement**

Sportswear apparel company, Puma, has sued Forever 21 at the United States District Court for the Central District of California for copyright infringement, infringement of design patents, trade dress and copyright. Puma has alleged that Forever 21 had blatantly copied its slip on shoes, Fur Slide sandal and The Bow Slide – which were protected by trade dress. According to the suit, Forever 21's Yoki Sneakers infringed Puma's trade dress over these shoes.

## **China slashes trademark fees**

The Chinese Trademark Office has slashed all its official fees by half effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 onwards. As per the revised fees, a trademark application will now cost RMB 300 per class while a renewal will cost RMB 1,000 per class.

## **Trump issues executive order on trade and counterfeits**

US President Donald Trump has issued an executive order for promoting the efficient and effective administration of US trade laws. The order will establish the enhanced collection and enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duties, and violations of trade and customs laws. The order will also ensure the effective enforcement of laws ensuring the rights of IP owners against illegal importation of counterfeit goods.

**The E-Bulletin of the ABU Legal Division is a fortnightly initiative to bring news and other updates to members.**

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## **Neil Gorsuch confirmed as Supreme Court judge**

Judge Neil Gorsuch has been confirmed as the US Supreme Court associate justice after the Republicans invoked a “nuclear” option for ensuring his confirmation. The Republicans voted in favour of Gorsuch's appointment to the Supreme Court by a low majority of 54 to 45.

## **Trademarks for public domain artwork acceptable rules**

The Court of Justice of the European Free Trade Association States (EFTA Court) has ruled that using public domain artwork as trademark was not in contravention of public policy or the principles of morality. The decision was handed down upon a request by Norway for the interpretation of Directive 2008/95/EC following the expiration of certain artworks in Oslo, Norway.

## **Ed Sheeran's “photograph” claim dismissed**

A district judge has dismissed a copyright claim brought by two US musicians over singer Ed Sheeran's hit “Photograph”. In June last year Ed Sheeran was named in a copyright infringement claim by Harrington and Leonard. They argued that Sheeran's song “Photograph” had similar elements to their track “Amazing”. “Photograph” was included in the album “x”, released in the US in 2014. The song came out as a single a year later. In the suit, the pair said Sheeran “copied, and exploited, without authorisation or credit, the work of other active, professional songwriters, on a breath-taking scale”. Lawyers for Sheeran asked the court to dismiss the copyright claim or strike from it “certain matter” that is “redundant, immaterial or scandalous”.

## **Maradona threatens to sue Japanese video game maker**

Legendary football player Diego Maradona has threatened to sue Japanese video game maker Konami for using his likeness in a football game called the Pro Evolution Soccer (PES) 2017.

## **WIPO SCCR to commence soon**

The 34<sup>th</sup> session of the SCCR will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> May at WIPO in Geneva. The current items on the agenda of SCCR are the Proposed Treaty for the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations, limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives, educational and research institutions and for persons with other disabilities.

## **WWE sues BitTorrent users for copyright infringement**

World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) has sued a group on anonymous BitTorrent users for copyright infringement at the US District Court of Connecticut. They have alleged that the defendants had vicariously infringed their copyright by unlawfully acquiring, reproducing and distributing a film called Eliminators which was released by WWE Studios.