

LEGAL DEPARTMENT E-BULLETIN



U.K.: Record Break - Illegally downloaded TV Show

The Grand Tour, Amazon's TV show by ex-Top Gear presenters is said to be the most illegally downloaded TV Show in history. The \$250 million show was supposed to boost Amazon subscriptions, currently at £79/month to secure its place as a major competitor to Netflix. Muso, data analysts for the piracy market, suggests that *The Grand Tour* is now the most illegally downloaded TV show ahead of *Game of Thrones*. The first episode was downloaded illegally 7.9m times, the second 6.4m times, and the third 4.6m times; with British viewers (13.7%) holding the first spot. Amazon's loss revenue is said to be £3.2m for its first episode in Britain alone due to piracy.

U.S: "Jersey Boys" ruled as copyright infringer

A jury has ruled that the musical production, "*Jersey Boys*", infringes the copyright of late author Rex Woodward, who wrote an unpublished biography of Tommy DeVito, one of the band members of Four Seasons which is chronicled in "*Jersey Boys*". Woodward died the same year he wrote the biography and his wife, Corbello inherited his rights. "*Jersey Boys*" opened in 2005 at the Broadway in New York. In 2007, Corbello sued on the grounds that the musical production infringes Woodward's unpublished novel.

Michael Jordan (MJ) wins IP rights over his name

Qiaodan Sports Co. is ordered to stop using the star's name in Chinese script. The court ruled however the company can continue to use the phonetic version in English. MJ has battled for years to win control of his name in China. The Chinese Supreme Court further ordered Qiaodan Sports Co. to stop using the Chinese characters for *Qiaodan* on its merchandise. After the verdict MJ stated that at last his Chinese fans and all Chinese consumers know that Qiaodan Sports and its products have no connection to him.

Kazakhstan agrees to join the Hague Conference

Kazakhstan is set to join the 1965 Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil & Commercial Matters and the 2007 Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance of 2007.

Malaysia joins TMview from the 12th Dec 2016

The Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO) has made its trade mark data available to the TMview search

tool. MyIPO's decision is a result of the EU-IPO's International Cooperation framework in collaboration with its international partners. This last extension brings the total number of offices participating in TMview to 56.

SC: Indian Anthem to be played before films' projection

The Indian Supreme Court has ruled historically that the national anthem must be played before any film in cinema halls and the public must respectfully stand up. The national flag should be screened while the anthem is being played. The complaint was filed by Shyam Chouksey. He contended that the SC should fix proper norms and guidelines for playing and singing national anthem at social gatherings.

Restaurant sued over musical copyright infringement

Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) has sued Californian-based restaurant Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar for alleged copyright infringement over their obligations to purchase a license before publicly playing any music from the BMI repertoire. The restaurant was warned 46 times in vain.

U.S: New Requirements for Copyright Safe Harbour

The US *Digital Millennium Copyright Act* provides safe harbour from copyright infringement liability for online service providers. To be eligible, a service provider must register a local agent using a paper form. The Copyright Office has since the 1st December 2016 required all service providers to electronically register an agent.

APAC: 2 Major Appointments

1. Singapore appoints new Attorney General

Lucien Wong has been appointed as Singapore's Attorney – General. He will take over from 14th January 2017 for three years, replacing the current A/G V.K. Rajah who finished his current term. Lucien Wong has a notable reputation and currently serves as the chairman and senior partner of Allen & Gledhill, Singapore's biggest firm. His experience is mainly in banking, corporate and financial services.

2. Australia appoints first woman as Chief Judge

Eminent jurist Susan Kiefel AC has been named as the 13th Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. She has been appointed to fill in the position of CJ Robert French AC, who will be retiring early next year. Her appointment makes her the first woman to be appointed to the highest court of Australia.

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

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