

Rio 2016: Mexican officials banned for copyright infringement

The IOC got tough and withdrew Mexican Official's passes, on alleged contravention of the IOC's copyright regulations, which saw the posting of an athlete's video online.

The Effect of Brexit on Intellectual Property Laws in UK

The UK IPO has issued guidelines on the effect of Brexit. While the UK stays in the EU it will continue to be bound by the EU Copyright Directive. The continued effect of EU Directives and Regulations will depend on the future relationship between UK and EU. Interestingly it is to be noted, once the UK leave the EU, judges will not have to follow EU case laws.

Methods of calculating damages in IP infringement cases

How courts calculate damages to be awarded in IP infringement cases? Courts in different jurisdiction apply several methods. Different methods used in Chinese courts are: 1. Actual losses by the owner; 2. Profits earned by the infringer; 3. Royalty based; 4. Statutory calculation; 5. Reasonable expenses.

Copyright in Music: Plagiarism

Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" is set for rebound. The jury found that bandmates J Page and R Plant did not infringe the copyright laws by copying the instrumental track "Taurus" by The Spirit, but the copyright trial is not over yet. The claimant has appealed against that decision. Led Zeppelin's record label, Warner Music group, also spoke out on the verdict, stating that "supporting our artists and protecting their creative freedom is paramount".

Changes to keep abreast of Development

The Ministry of Law and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) has proposed a public consultation on proposed changes to the Copyright

Act until 24 Oct 2016. The consultation is necessary in view of technological developments in the past decades, and how they have led to "immense changes" in the way copyrighted works are created, distributed, accessed and used. The proposed changes to the Act mainly relate to ensuring that the copyright law continues to provide an environment that benefits both creators and users.

Korean fried chicken v.s Copyright

An interesting case in South Korea, where a fried chicken restaurant owner has been ordered to pay Louis Vuitton millions of won for infringing its copyright. The claim was for using a pun on its name and imitating its logo for its own brand. A Seoul court fined the restaurant's owner, Kim, 14.5 million won (11,200 euros).

Streaming challenges traditional broadcast

A study by Netflix revealed 61% subscribers binge-watch, 79% claim it improved the viewing experience and 37% said they wait for a season to complete in order to binge-watch it. These percentages are important as streaming is growing fast—21% a year. By 2018 it will account for 82 percent of global consumer internet data traffic. Netflix alone currently accounts for more than 34% of peak data internet traffic in the US. Add in other streaming providers such as Amazon, Hulu, Apple TV, BBCiPlayer, Roku, Hayu, MUBI, Twitch and Vessel—to name a few—and it is not hard to see the impact of this behaviour.

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) criticised

TPP's aims is to lower trade barriers, including tariffs among 12 Pacific countries including the U.S., Japan, Australia, Canada, and Singapore. Digital rights groups have protested the deal, largely because it would expand copyright enforcement provisions across the Asia-Pacific region. The deal would expand the length of copyright terms in many countries from 50 years to 70 years, and it would require signatory countries to mirror provisions in the DMCA that ban the circumvention of digital locks, or DRM.

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