

LEGAL DEPARTMENT E - BULLETIN



ABU General Assembly ends in Bali

The ABU General Assembly was held this year in Bali between the 24th & 25th of October. Various elections in several departments such as Programming, Sports and the Administrative Council and Presidency were successfully handled by the Dept. The ABU Legal Department presented its aims and goals for the year to come. Among its various initiatives are the update of the Copyright Handbook to reflect the growing case laws since the last edition in 2011 and more collaborative works with members in various jurisdictions. The GA ended with a Bali Declaration (*vide* the ABU website for the full text) for the inclusion of minorities among the mainstream programming content. Special care is to be given for an all-inclusive and unity in diversity programming for the future.

Intellectual Property and Legal Committee (IPLC)

The former ABU Copyright Committee is now officially known as the IPLC after both the Admin Council and the GA adopted the change of name to reflect the wider scope and ambit of the legal department's committee. The next IPLC meeting and forum are to be held in Uzbekistan by the ABU Full Member, MTRK in March 2017. The themes for the next years' conference are still open and members are invited to send their request ASAP.

World Broadcasting Union (WBU) Conference on the 26th October

The WBU held its annual conference in Bali this year back to back with the ABU GA. It saw the participation of many speakers on diverse subjects such as the role of PSMs in digital age, sports coverage and strategies for the future, low cost technologies for broadcasting services and media coverage for violence. The conference ended on a positive note with all Broadcasting Unions agreeing to concert their efforts for a more unified action plan.

Maria Pallante resigns from U.S. Copyright Office:

US's top copyright official, Maria Pallante, former U.S. Register of Copyrights has resigned from the Copyright Office due to being shifted out of her job. Her resignation came as a surprise to copyright and music business lawyers and lobbyists. Pallante was perceived to be moderately sympathetic to the rights of creators, which was viewed unfavourably by some in the Silicon Valley.

UK Intellectual Property Office invites comments on the draft European Copyright legislation

The UK IPO has invited consultations on the draft European Copyright legislation aimed towards modernising the European copyright framework. The draft legislation was published by the European Commission on 14 September 2016 and includes: (i) a draft Regulation and Directive implementing the Marrakesh Treaty for the benefit of visually impaired people. (ii) a draft Regulation on the exercise of copyright and related rights by broadcasting organizations and retransmissions of television and radio programmes. (iii) a draft Copyright Directive covering a range of measures aimed at – (a) exceptions and limitations to the digital and cross – border environment (b) ensuring wide access to copyright content & (c) achieving a well-functioning marketplace for copyright.

Warner Bros sues talent agency for copyright infringement

Warner Bros Entertainment has sued talent agency Innovative Agency for its blatant illegal online distribution of Warner films such as Creed. In early 2015, Innovative Agency designed and operated an illegal digital distribution platform that copied movies and subsequently distributing those copies and streaming public performances of those copies to numerous people inside and outside the agency.

Lucasfilm sues for trademark infringement

Lucasfilm – the primary television production company behind Star Wars has sued a Californian named Michael Brown for trademark infringement. Brown had been offering lightsaber classes, a Jedi school, and various related events in mid-town Manhattan. The rightsholder, Lucasfilm owns the trademark to both "Jedi" and "Lightsaber", which were used by Brown for promoting his classes. Further, the "Lightsaber Academy" has also been accused for using a logo that is similar to Lucasfilm's Jedi Order logo.

Singapore ranks 9th in the Rule of Law Index

Singapore has made it to the top ten out of 113 countries of the Rule of Law Index. The Index is compiled by the World Justice Project (WJP), an independent think tank based in Washington D.C (US). The overall top performers in this Index were Denmark & Norway. The Index measures 44 indicators across 8 primary rule of law factors.

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

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