



Trump triggers NAFTA negotiations

US President Donald Trump, keeping upto his electoral promise, has formally endorsed the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). NAFTA is a trilateral trade agreement between US, Canada and Mexico.

Notorious organized crime group busted for selling pirate DVD's

A notorious organized crime group has been incarcerated for more than ten years for selling fake DVDs in the UK. The four men gang used fake identities and paperwork to sell more than 31,000 DVDs worth more than £500,000 (\$652,000) over a two and half year period. According to the Suffolk Police, the gang was also involved in money laundering practices.

Miss Universe producer sues crown maker for trademark infringement

IMG Universe, the producer of the Miss Universe pageant has sued Czech based company Diamonds International for breach of sponsorship agreement and for trademark infringement.

According to IMG's claim filed at the US District Court for the Southern District of New York, Diamonds was hired to design the pageant winner's crown and had signed a sponsorship agreement with IMG in 2014. As per the terms of the sponsorship agreement, Diamonds was obliged to provide the crown and the sponsorship fee. However, it failed to pay the \$190,000 sponsorship fee and the agreement was terminated in 2016. IMG has alleged that even after the termination of the sponsorship agreement, Diamonds continued to use the Miss Universe trademarks especially on its website. It has claimed damages, contractual payments under the sponsorship agreement, injunctive relief and a jury trial.

Most S'poreans concerned about fake news: BBC study

A recent study by BBC has revealed that about 84 % of Singaporean news consumers were concerned about fake news, making them to be the highest among the five countries as per BBC's study titled, "The Value of News — and the Importance of Trust". The reason attributed for this was the high internet connectivity and social media penetration in Singapore.

Hulu sues TiVo for patent infringement

Subscription video service Hulu has sued television set-top box maker TiVo in the US District Court for the Northern District of California for patent non - infringement. According to Hulu's suit for declaratory judgment, it has claimed that it was not required to renew an expired licensing deal with TiVo since the patents involved were expired, were no longer of value or were linked to a service that Hulu no longer offered. It further alleged that after years of negotiations during which it consistently denied any allegations of patent infringement, it was sued by Rovi (Tivo's predecessor) in 2011 for infringing three patents belonging to Rovi. As per Hulu, Tivo's patent infringement claim held no merit as out of the three patents, one had expired, the other was unpatentable and the final one was for a patent that it no longer offered.

China based Tencent held fastest growing TM portfolio in 2016

China based social media and internet technology firm Tencent had the world's fastest growing TM portfolio in 2016 as per Trademark Now, a web-based trademark management company. As per the statistics released by Trademark Now, Tencent had filed more than 4,000 trademark applications during the year 2016. Korea based electronics company LG claimed second spot in portfolio growth with 3600 trademark applications followed by media firm Time Warner with over 3,500 applications.

Indian Government signs MoU with WIPO

The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for establishing Technology & Innovation Support Centres (TISC's) in India. These TISC's will provide innovators in developing countries with high quality technology services to help them create, protect and manage their IP.

34th WIPO SCCR Concludes

The 34th Standing Committee on Copyright & Related Rights (SCCR) concluded on May 5th, 2017 which deliberated the Broadcasters Treaty apart from other agenda items. The SCCR made the following recommendation: "The WIPO General Assembly is invited to direct the Committee to continue its work on this agenda item". The next session of the Committee will take place from November 13th to November 17th, 2017.

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

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