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Intellectual Property for a Better Future

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Intellectual Property for A Better Future

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What do you think of when you hear the words "intellectual property?" Use one or two words. (a word cloud question)

Intellectual Property



- Trade secrets
- Plant varieties
- Geographical indications
- Internet domain names
- Integrated circuit designs

Copyright

- An original work of authorship
- An expression of an idea
- Books, motion pictures, songs, paintings, sculptures, photographs... and also computer programs
- No registration required
- The term of protection is, at a minimum, the life of the author plus 50 years
- Exclusive rights of the copyright owner

Patents

- An invention a product or a process that is new, involves an inventive step, and is capable of industrial application
- Pharmaceuticals, vaccines, types of fuel, engines, production of renewable energy...
- A patent application must be filed and a patent office issues a patent
- The term of protection is 20 years from the date of the filing of the patent application
- Exclusive rights of the patent owner



Trademarks

- Any sign, or any combination of signs, capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one producer from another; in some countries also sounds, smells, and other marks
- An application must be filed, and a trademark office registers the trademark
- In some countries, trademarks enjoy common law protection
- The protection may last forever as long as the trademark is used in commerce and does not become generic
- Exclusive rights of the trademark owner

Do you own any intellectual property, and if so, which one(s)? (Select all that apply.) A copyright A patent A design A trademark A trade secret A plant variety A geographical indication An internet domain name A semiconductor topography



Is Intellectual Property Law (Always) Promoting A Better Future?

Three examples:

- Copyright has been blamed for creating barriers to free access to content on the Internet.
- COVID-19 vaccine patents have been blamed for causing an inadequate supply of the vaccines to much of the world.
- Geographical indications (e.g., Roquefort for cheese, Champagne for wine) have been blamed for artificially increasing prices of some food products.

Enforcement of Copyright on the Internet

- Free speech and other rights on the Internet must be safeguarded, including the rights of copyright owners.
- Any content filtering must reflect the rights of all concerned.
- Remedies must be proportionate and just.
- A culture should develop to respect the work product and efforts of authors.

Patents and Vaccines

- The patent system provides incentives for inventing activity, and any weakening of patent rights must be analyzed in light of the potential threat to the incentives to invent.
- Patents facilitate transactions, including licensing for production and further research.
- Mechanisms exist to respond to emergency situations such as a pandemic – namely compulsory licenses.
- Countries must address other (additional) barriers that prevent access to vaccines.



Geographical Indications

- Geographical indications facilitate the creation of local brands that assist in promoting local products worldwide.
- Geographical indications help protect the quality of the local products.
- Geographical indications become part of the local development strategy and can assist in maintaining and improving the environment.

Would you like to become an intellectual property lawyer? (Select one.) Yes. Maybe. No.



You can Innovate as Future Intellectual Property Lawyers!

- Help calibrate IP law with other laws and policies to promote the creation and innovation that are so important to the progress of society
- Shape IP law and its application to reflect the needs of society
- Form IP law for a better future
- Enrich the collaborative international community of IP lawyers





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