



ASIP News



ASIP held a workshop on the occasion of the World IP Day 2016

Under the patronage of HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, the Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP), in cooperation with the National Library of Jordan, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property, and the Licensing Executives Society – Arab Countries, organized a workshop entitled “Collective Management and Copyrights,” at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University.

In this Issue

- » AGIP Staff in Cairo, Egypt, Pass ACIPP Exam
- » New IP Experts Join ASIP
- » USPTO Seeking Comments on Proposed Trademark Fee Adjustments
- » The Quid Pro Quo – How Bad Patents Can Harm a Startup Company



AGIP Staff in Cairo, Egypt, Pass ACIPP Exam

CAIRO – May 26, 2016– A number of staff members from Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) offices in Cairo, Egypt, have successfully passed the exams of the “Arab Certified Intellectual Property Practitioner” (ACIPP) program, which covers the following IP disciplines:

- Trademarks and unfair competition.
- Patents of inventions and trade secrets.
- Copyright and related rights.

Accordingly, the participants have been granted the ACIPP Certificate issued by the Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP).

The Society is a non-profit organization founded on February 23rd, 1987 in Munich, Germany, by leading practitioners in different fields of Intellectual Property in the Arab region, under the chairmanship of HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh. Its mission is to gather IP professionals and practitioners in the Arab region and to help raise awareness and enhance understanding of Intellectual Property issues and dynamics.



New IP Experts Join ASIP

AMMAN – May 31, 2016 – The Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP) received 25 new members, all IP experts from the Arab region.

Wishing progressive and successful careers for all ASIP members.

ASIP's Membership benefits include:

1. International Recognition

ASIP is on the list of non-governmental organizations with a consultative status in the UN Economic and Social Council, in addition to being an observer member in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

2. Support and Ethical Protection

Joining a professional society which is internationally recognized and abiding by all its professional requirements will improve the professional position of the practicing members.

3. Research and Studies

ASIP's technical research program, at both the Arab and international levels, offers members the opportunity to participate in and benefit from it. ASIP also provides members with its monthly bulletin (currently suspended, yet will be activated soon), which gives members the opportunity to publish their opinions and ideas.





4. Upgrading the Profession

The intellectual property profession can be upgraded through the Society's bulletins and its constructive social campaigns.

5. Association with Governmental Parties

There is no doubt that governmental institutions prefer dealing with organizations rather than with individuals, in particular with respect to the issues of developing and proposing laws and regulations, and exchanging expertise in the field of Intellectual Property and other fields related to the economic development and the practicing of the profession.

6. Cooperation with Other Societies and Institutions

As a professional body, ASIP will cooperate with Arab universities and higher education institutions to hold training courses, and assist members in completing their professional studies or research. ASIP will also cooperate with other professional organizations and participate in academic courses and professional research.

To join ASIP, make sure to visit the following link:

http://www.aspip.org/membership_enrollment_form.aspx

USPTO Seeking Comments on Proposed Trademark Fee Adjustments

WASHINGTON – May 27, 2016 – The U.S. Department of Commerce's United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) proposing to set or increase certain trademark fees, as authorized by the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA). The proposed fees will allow the USPTO to recover the aggregate estimated cost of Trademark operations, Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) operations, and administrative services.



Prior to issuing the NPRM, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, Ms. Michelle K. Lee, notified the Trademark Public Advisory Committee (TPAC) of the Office's intent to set or adjust trademark fees. The TPAC held a public hearing in Alexandria, VA, on November 3, 2015. The TPAC released its report regarding the proposed fees on November 30, 2015. The USPTO posted a Federal Register Notice to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on possible adjustments to trademark application fees.

Under the NPRM, the new fees will further USPTO strategic objectives by better aligning fees with the full cost of products and services. The new fees will also protect the integrity of the register by incentivizing more timely filing or examination of applications, other filings, and more efficient resolution of appeals

and trials; in addition to promoting the efficiency of the process, in large part through incentivizing lower-cost electronic filing options. The proposed fee change will further strengthen the USPTO's core mission strategic goal of serving the public in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

Source: <http://www.uspto.gov/about-us/news-updates/uspto-seeking-comments-proposed-trademark-fee-adjustments>

The Quid Pro Quo – How Bad Patents Can Harm a Startup Company

WASHINGTON – May 31, 2016 – New inventors are often unaware of the quid pro quo that is fundamental to the patent system.

The inventors must show the world their innermost secrets of how to make or use their invention. In exchange, the government grants a limited right in the form of a patent.

One of the options for the inventor is to not to file a patent, but simply to keep their invention secret. The most common examples are the formula for Coca Cola or Colonel Sander's secret herbs and spices. Both of these examples could have been patented, but were not. From a business standpoint, these were the right decisions.

There are many examples of patents that had virtually no value because the claims were undetectable, unenforceable, or ridiculously narrow. In the process of getting a worthless patent - a bad patent, the company gave up their complete roadmap for how to manufacture and use their product.

These bad patents are not just a waste of money, but their competitive advantage is eviscerated by disclosing everything they know. The bottom line: Some patent applications can be very damaging to a startup company.

Part of the analysis prior to filing a patent is to first estimate how broad or narrow the patent might be, then evaluate whether the patent – at that breadth – would be worth pursuing. This analysis starts with a patent search.

Many investors want to check the box of “is it patented?”. However, most investors are not aware that the patent will post all the company secrets online for all competitors – with virtually no benefit to the company. The decision to get a patent or not needs to be made carefully and thoughtfully, and many companies are better off with no patent protection.

Source: Krajec, Russ. “The Quid Pro Quo – How Bad Patents Can Harm a Startup Company” Investing In Patents (May 31, 2016).

