



UNITED STATES

41st World Intellectual Property Congress A Resounding Success

Boston – Participants from over 78 countries around the world converged on Boston, MA for the 41st World Intellectual Property Congress, sponsored by the Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propriété Intellectuelle (AIPPI).

AIPPI is concerned with all types of intellectual property rights (including patents, trademarks, and copyrights). It is the oldest global intellectual property association, and has the respect and ear of governments and global organizations such as the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Trade Organization. Since it was founded in 1897, AIPPI has been consulted (and still is) by decision makers worldwide on current intellectual property issues.

The Boston Congress, held in the United States for the first time in 33 years, attracted over 2,000 participants, including highly experienced and respected outside intellectual property counsel, corporate intellectual property counsel, academics and judges from around the world.

“We were delighted to host the 41st World Congress in the U.S.,” said **Ronald Myrick** (Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP; Cambridge, MA), President AIPPI. “Boston was a particularly appropriate venue for this meeting as the home of some of the world’s premier universities and research institutions. The 2008 Congress merged the long and rich history of the International event with modern day technology to offer unprecedented access to up-to-the-minute information throughout the event.”

The Boston Organizing Committee, under the direction of **Clark W. Lackert** (King & Spalding LLP; New York, NY), President, AIPPI United States Group, developed a greatly expanded program of workshops, roundtable discussions, mock trials, panel discussions and unique social events, all designed to encourage learning, networking and interaction among the participants. “The Boston Congress offered a multi-faceted program designed to attract a wide spectrum of attendees with varied interests,” said **Lackert**. “From the enhanced program of workshops and roundtables to special events such as the “Women in IP Law” breakfast, attendees had a unique opportunity to meet with and learn from colleagues from around the world.”

Boston Organizing Committee Chair, **Philip C. Swain** (Foley Hoag LLP; Boston, MA) and his committee members developed a number of new features for the 41st Congress that added to its relevance in the IP community. “The Boston Congress offered the Intellectual Property community an opportunity to attend special sessions with a timely message for all participants” said **Swain**. “A panel discussion featuring the heads of the three main patent offices (European Patent Office; United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Japan Patent Office) and a judges’ panel discussion featuring the top IP judges from seven major jurisdictions offered participants an opportunity to hear opinions on topics of universal interest, such as the ‘inventive step’ or ‘nonobviousness’ requirement for patents.”

Attendees at the Boston Congress also enjoyed the opening ceremony at historic Faneuil Hall; an evening at the Boston Museum of Science and a gala dinner with entertainment and dancing provided by the Boston Pops orchestra.

The 42nd World Intellectual Congress will be held in Paris, France on October 1-6, 2010. More information can be found at: www.aippi.org

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