List of Possible Paper Topics
International Intellectual Property Law

1. The draft WIPO Substantive Patent Law Treaty: Developments and Issues

2. The draft WIPO Broadcast Treaty: Developments and Issues

3. Intellectual Property Provisions in Recent U.S. Free Trade Agreements and Their Relationship to U.S. Federal law


5. The WIPO Copyright and WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaties and their Impact on U.S. Copyright Law and Litigation


7. WTO Negotiations on Geographical Indications and Their Potential Implications for U.S. Law

8. Starbucks, Oxfam, and Ethiopian Coffee: Legal Analysis of Trademark and Geographical Indications Issues

9. What Steps Can and Should Governments Take to Implement the Decision/Amendment on Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health?

10. The Proposed EC Patent Regulation and its Implications for Patenting in Europe and/or Lessons for the U.S.


12. The WTO U.S.–China dispute over Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights

13. Parallel Trade in Patented Pharmaceuticals: Is This the Answer to High Pharmaceutical Prices in the U.S.?


17. Implementation of the Madrid Protocol on Trademarks in U.S. Law: What Changes Have Been Made and How Does This Affect Trademark Practice?

18. Royalty Rates under Compulsory Licenses for Medicines: What is the Past Practice and What Might Be the Future?


20. Does the Existing International IP Framework Adequately Protect the Cultural Properties of Indigenous Peoples?


22. The Indian Patent (Amendments) Act and its Implications for World Pharmaceutical Trade, Including the Results of Novartis v. India

23. Foreign Governments that have Mandated the Use of Open-Source Software and/or Open Data Formats: Should the U.S. Do Likewise?


26. Patentability of Computer Software in the EU: History and Prospects

27. Canada’s Proposed DMCA: Is Our Northern Neighbor Complying with the WIPO Copyright Treaty’s Anticircumvention Mandate?


29. Data Protection Rules in U.S. Free Trade Agreements and Their Impact on Access to Medicines in Developing Countries

30. Anticounterfeiting and the Criminalization of International Intellectual Property: What are the Justifications and Implications?

31. Ongoing Pharmaceutical Patent Disputes in Thailand (Compulsory Licensing of HIV/AIDS Medicines) and/or the Philippines (Regulatory Review Exception and Parallel trade): Legal Analysis and Policy Implications

32. The Proposed U.S. Patent Reform Act: International and Comparative Implications


35. The EC Commission’s Recent “Green Paper” (formally captioned Copyright in the Knowledge Economy) listed 25 questions concerning possible changes to international copyright law. Choose one or two of the questions (many of them are interrelated) and give your answer.

36. The Supreme Court’s 2010 decision in Costco v. Omega regarding copyright exhaustion. Did the Court’s 4-4 decision reach the right one? What are the implications for the U.S. and European economies? And what are the effects on developing country economies if similar decisions were reached by their courts?

37. The WTO’s Panel decision finding that China’s system of pre-publication censorship violates TRIPs. Is this decision correct? What are China’s interests and how do they affect the rest of the WTO member countries? Which other countries might have similar interests and why?

38. The adoption of “three strikes” legislation in France and Taiwan cutting off users’ internet access after three accusations of copyright infringement. How does this work? Should it be adopted by other countries? What would the implications be on developing countries?

39. The Supreme Court’s 2010 decision in In re Bilski. Compare patentability standards in Europe, Japan and developing countries to U.S. standard. Are the standards, legislation consistent with WTO, GATT and TRIPs? What patentability standards in this space should developing countries adopt?

40. European Parliament’s backing of EU-wide Copyright System. What is the latest proposal and what are the most salient issues? How would it work with the U.S. system—compare and contrast?

41. The Supreme Court’s upcoming Microsoft v. I4i LP case on patent validity standard. Compare standards with Europe, Japan and several developing countries. Which standard should prevail in the U.S. and the rest of the world? Which standard would be beneficial to developing countries and why?

42. The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit’s upcoming Therasense v. Becton Dickinson case on inequitable conduct. Compare and contrast the inequitable conduct standard with other countries. What should the standard be? Should it be different in developing countries?