

Bright Ideas

A publication of the Intellectual Property Law Section of the New York State Bar Association

Message from the Chair

By the time you read this the Section will have held its Fall Meeting at Lake George. Co-Chairs Brooke Erdos Singer and Lisa Rosaya and the Chairs of seven of our substantive IP committees worked hard to prepare an excellent two-day program of distinguished speakers who addressed a wide range of cutting-edge IP topics.



Charles Weigell

In addition, planning for the Section’s Annual Meeting program, which will take place on January 27, 2015, is moving ahead. With assistance from our substantive committee chairs, Section fellows Danielle Gorman and Alexandra Goldstein and young attorney Ashford Tucker are bringing a youthful perspective to our program this year and are making good progress in coordinating the presentations. We cannot wait to see the results.

The Section is changing, though, and hosting two major meetings a year may not be enough to serve the needs of our membership. We have other successful programs, such as Women in IP, which takes place every June, but hosting more programs more frequently during the coming year is a main Section goal. Another goal is to get our nysba.org communities section up and running as a library, forum, and networking tool for our members. In addition, I would like to see us host more pro bono events during 2015 (our last pro bono program, focused on advising start-ups on IP issues and deftly organized by Debra Resnick and Paula Joanne Estrada De Martin, was a great success).

Putting these events and programs together requires dedication. Most of us have very busy schedules, but taking the time out to contribute time and effort to contribute to the Section’s goals of education and outreach is vital

and also highly rewarding. Doing this also requires a shared vision for what the Section can do and can become.

Vision requires leadership, and leadership is a two-way street. I do not mean leadership that always originates with our Section chairs or officers, though every chair and officer has a responsibility to facilitate Section programs and other activities. Leadership also comes from individual initiative, from those with ideas who share them *and* are willing to put in the effort to realize them. Initiative spurs collective action and allows us to coordinate efforts, allocate resources, and plan events and activities.

Of course, no organization adopts and implements every idea it encounters. This is why there is a process involved in receiving, discussing, and adopting proposals that come before our Executive Committee. Perhaps I’m dating myself, but if anyone recalls how in the 1960s the Beatles’ Apple Records initially entertained (and funded) every crazy notion pitched to it, you have a sense of how

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the lack of an ordered process and approach to reviewing initiatives can be a recipe for disaster. There is, however, nothing wrong with trying to do things a little differently. I am not talking about a radical departure; we will certainly continue our Section tradition of putting on quality programs covering relevant and current IP law topics. But in growing beyond our current program schedule and extending into online media, we also look to receive

input, ideas, and volunteers from the Section's membership—where I am sure there is no shortage of vision, initiative, and leadership. If you, as a Section member, feel the same and have the dedication to help the Section reach its goals, we would love to hear from you.

Charles Weigell

ANNUAL MEETING 2015



SAVE THE
DATE

January 26 – 31, 2015
New York Hilton Midtown
1335 Avenue of the Americas,
New York City

Intellectual Property Law Section Program,
Luncheon and Reception

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

To register or for more information, go to www.nysba.org/am2015

