

LEGAL DEPARTMENT E-BULLETIN



Singapore appoints four new High Court judges

Singapore's President Tony Tan Keng Yam has appointed four new judges of the High Court in consultation with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. The Prime Minister's office announced that the four new judges who will assume office from September 30, 2017 are: Judicial Commissioner (JC) Valerie Thean Pik Yuen, JC Hoo Sheau Peng, JC Debbie Ong Siew Ling and JC Aedit Abdullah.

Game of Thrones Leaks from Star India

Four people were arrested in relation to a leak of an unaired episode of "Games of Thrones". HBO produces the popular series and Star TV is its international broadcast partner. Star TV said that they take this breach very seriously and immediately complained to the law enforcement officials because of which these four arrests from Star TV's technology vendor were made.

Canon in patent infringement row in Germany

Japanese optical and imaging company Canon has been granted a preliminary injunction by a German court against Printperfect for patent infringement. Canon filed an infringement complaint against Printperfect for infringing its European patent number EP 2 087 407 which is related to a drum unit and a process cartridge. Printperfect sells ink toner cartridges for a variety of printers via online retail platforms such as Amazon.

The Düsseldorf Court order has enjoined Printperfect from "offering and distributing laser toner cartridges comprising a drum unit with a certain coupling member".

Walmart sued over "web crawler" technology

Retail Corporation Walmart has been sued by a US based company for patent infringement. Spider Search Analytics (SSA) has alleged that Walmart's usage of web crawler technology that allows users to quickly search through thousands of pages on internet infringed its US patent number 7,454,430. According to SSA's complaint, Walmart used its web crawling technology that allowed searches, verify and archive facts in a digital repository without its permission or license. It has sought monetary damages, injunctive relief, and a jury trial.

Sri Lanka set to join the Madrid Protocol

Sri Lanka will join the Madrid Protocol by August 2018 according to the country's minister of industry and commerce Rishad Bathiudeen. Bathiudeen has appointed

JM Swaminathan to head the IP Advisory Commission of Sri Lanka with a mandate to speed up the process of ratifying the protocol.

The Madrid Protocol allows countries to protect trademarks in multiple jurisdictions by filing one application with a single office, in one language and one registration fee. It currently has 99 members.

BBC settles trademark infringement case in India

BBC has settled a trademark infringement case in India against Kuldeep Singh, a publisher of a cooking book. Singh, the owner of Brajindra Book Company had shortened the name of his business to "BBC".

The BBC sought a permanent injunction against Singh at the Delhi High Court. However, before the Court could pronounce its verdict, the parties entered into a settlement. As per the terms of settlement, Singh agreed to use the "bbc" brand in lower case and that it would always be used in conjunction with the full name of the company and that the 'bbc' font size would not be more than half the font size of the company's name.

Sports website sued for copyright infringement by photographer

A photographer has sued Bleacher Report, a sports news website for using images of two former NFL players without his permission. Christopher Sadowski, a US based photographer filed the suit at the US District Court for the Southern District of New York complaining that he had authorised the images of NFL players Ray Lewis and Reggie Howard to be used in the New York Post, credited to him. He has alleged Bleacher Report for removing the copyright management information identifying him as the photographer before copying the entire article from the New York Post. He has sought damages, a transfer of profits, litigation costs, attorneys' fees and a jury trial.

US broadcaster and Yahoo in copyright infringement row

Marcel Thomas, a photographer has sued US broadcaster American Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and Internet Company Yahoo for using his image of entertainment mogul Sumner Redstone without permission. In the copyright infringement suit filed at the US District Court for the Southern District of New York, Thomas claimed that ABC used the image in its news show "Good Morning America" without seeking his permission and so did Yahoo in one of its news items. Thomas has sought statutory damages of up to \$150,000 per work.

The E-Bulletin of the ABU Legal Dept. is a fortnightly initiative to bring news and other updates to members.

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