



This guide is intended to provide a useful resource to potential patent professionals, law students, and prospective law students interested in careers in intellectual property law. It provides an overview of the important role intellectual property plays in today's global knowledge economy; a brief introduction to intellectual property law, including a description of copyrights, patents, trademarks, and trade secrets; different types of intellectual property careers; an overview of recommended coursework and extracurricular activities to prepare for an intellectual property career; and additional resources for more comprehensive information.

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Table of Contents

I. Why is Intellectual Property Important?	4
II. What is Intellectual Property Law?	5
III. What Job Opportunities Exist in Intellectual Property Law?	10
A. Legal Jobs	11
1. Types of Legal Work.....	11
a) Transactional.....	11
b) Litigation.....	11
2. Types of Legal Employers.....	12
a) Law Firms.....	12
b) Corporate.....	12
c) Government.....	12
d) Academic.....	12
e) Non-Profit.....	13
B. Patent Agents	13
C. Business Jobs	14
1. Types of Business Work.....	14
a) Asset Building.....	14
b) Outmarketing.....	14
2. Types of Business Employers.....	14
a) Corporate.....	15
b) Consulting.....	15
c) Agents/Brokers.....	15
d) Academic.....	15
e) Non-Profit.....	15
IV. Curriculum for Intellectual Property Law	16
A. Core Intellectual Property Curriculum	16
B. Advanced Intellectual Property Curriculum	16
C. Courses Including Treatment of Intellectual Property Issues	17
V. The Patent Bar Examination	19
VI. Extracurricular Activities	20
A. Practical Patent Drafting Experience	20
B. Internships	21
C. Professional Organizations	22
D. Competitions	24
E. Study Abroad	24
VII. Intellectual Property Scholarships	25
VIII. Intellectual Property Career Fairs	25
IX. Intellectual Property Resources	26

I. Why is Intellectual Property Important?

Over time, the United States and global economy has transitioned from an agriculture-based economy, to an industrial economy, and is now rapidly evolving into a knowledge-based economy dependent on intellectual capital that is driven by ideas and innovation.

As Alan Greenspan, a former long-time chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, has stated, “the economic product of the United States ... [is] predominantly conceptual.”

Intellectual property is one of the primary components of these conceptual assets. Accordingly, the role of intellectual property law has become more important in today’s global economy.

In the 1980’s, intangible assets accounted for a mere 40 percent of a publicly traded company’s value. Today, as much as 80 percent of the value of publicly traded companies in the U.S. comes from intangible assets.

Management of intellectual property, as one of the largest intangible assets of a business, understandably has become a significant strategic issue. In the U.S. alone, technology licensing revenue accounts for tens of billions of dollars annually. Worldwide licensing revenue is over \$100 billion and shows a likelihood of continued growth. This growth can be seen in all areas of intellectual property.

For example, since passage of the last major copyright reforms that went into effect in 1976 and 2004, the annual number of copyright registrations has increased approximately sixfold.

Similarly, since the mid 2000's, the annual number of patents issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has more than doubled. During this same period, the annual number of patent applications to the USPTO has also more than doubled, nearing the one million mark per year, creating a substantial backlog in the patent examination process.

Trademark applications and registrations have similarly shown a dramatic increase over the past several decades with 106,383 trademark applications filed in 2000 and 273, 808 filed in 2018.

Together, with the increasing trend to protect intellectual property rights, there has been a substantial increase in intellectual property litigation with thousands of cases initiated each year.

II. What is Intellectual Property Law?

Intellectual property rights protect ideas, inventions, discoveries, symbols, images, expressive works, and other valuable products of the human mind that have an intangible existence. These rights can be traced back to the Middle Ages and ancient Rome.

Intellectual property is generally divided into several main categories: copyrights, patents, trademarks, and trade secrets. The following sections provide a brief introduction to these different categories of intellectual property, their historical development, and modern issues.

Copyrights

The modern concept of copyright was first introduced in the Statute of Anne in England in 1710. The law granted to authors rights of a limited duration and of limited character to induce writing and promote learning. Modern copyright laws are largely based on this statute.

The Constitution of the United States authorizes Congress to enact laws “to promote the progress of science and useful arts.” With this express power, Congress created the copyright system through the enactment of numerous copyright acts giving the U.S. Copyright Office the power to award copyrights to authors.

The premise is that by protecting an author’s creations for a limited period of time through copyright, the author is more likely to share those creative works with the public.

Accordingly, an author is granted certain exclusive rights to the protected work. Currently, in most instances, an author’s exclusive rights extend for 70 years beyond the author’s life.

A work may be protected if it is an original work of authorship fixed in a tangible medium. An original work requires some “modicum of creativity.” Accordingly, copyright protects the expression of ideas rather than the ideas themselves, a concept known as the idea/expression dichotomy.

A work also must fall within a statutorily created category of protected subject matter. The scope of protected subject matter has been expanded greatly since the introduction of copyrights to the United States with the development of modern technology. Copyrightable subject matter includes: literary works; musical works; dramatic works; pantomimes and choreographic works; pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works; motion pictures and other audiovisual works; sound recordings; and architectural works.

An author’s exclusive rights include the right to copy, sell, perform, and create derivative works of the copyrighted work. Advances in technology continue to create numerous issues on whether a new technology falls within the scope of a copyright holder’s exclusive rights. Technological advances have also made enforcement of an author’s exclusive rights more difficult due to the ease of copying and distributing different media internationally. Governments are responding by imposing criminal liability on infringers in addition to the civil liability which previously existed.

A more expansive discussion of copyright law is beyond the scope of this guide; however, there are numerous references listed in the resource section of this guide which include comprehensive discussions of copyright law.

Patents

Modern patent law was first introduced in Venice, Italy, in 1474 as a means to attract skilled merchants to the city-state. The inventor of a technique deemed novel was given a ten-year right to its exclusive use, and infringers were fined 100 ducats.

Patent law has since become an internationally accepted means of protecting knowledge, with most countries granting patents on a national basis through the establishment of government patent offices. Although the laws differ on some details, the main tenets are similar due to the enactment of international treaties.

As mentioned earlier, the Constitution of the United States authorizes Congress to enact laws “to promote the progress of science and useful arts.” With this express power, Congress created the patent system. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) was given the power to scrutinize patent applications and to award patents to inventors.

In exchange for public disclosure of the invention, an inventor is given the exclusive right to make, use, and sell the invention for a limited period of time.

Currently, a patent’s exclusive rights are limited to 20 years from the date of filing of the patent application.

An invention is patentable if it satisfies three criteria: it is useful, novel, and non-obvious. Additionally, an invention must fall within patentable subject matter. The Supreme Court of the United States ruled that “anything under the sun made by man” is patentable. The scope of what is considered patentable subject matter has expanded greatly over the past half-century to

include biotechnology, software, and business method patents. As the scope of patentable subject matter has expanded, the USPTO has had to respond in kind with new rules for patent examination.

A more expansive discussion of patent law is beyond the scope of this guide; however, there are numerous references listed in the resource section of this guide which include more comprehensive discussions.

Trademarks

Trademarks are marks (including logos), words, or phrases that are used to identify the source of goods and services. Evidence of marking goods dates back to ancient Egypt, where an ancient Egyptian wall painting depicts the activity of branding cattle. In the Middle Ages, members of guilds were required to mark their goods with identifying symbols to make it easy to identify guild members who violated quality requirements.

Even in the United States trademarks remained largely a matter of local concern until after the Civil War due to the local nature of most economic activity. As the economy expanded in the late Nineteenth Century, the need developed for trademark laws that were national in scope and more comprehensive. After several failed attempts at passing a national trademark law, Congress passed the first modern trademark registration act in 1905 under the authority of the Commerce Clause. However, the 1946 Trademark Act, known as the Lanham Act, greatly expanded the types of marks eligible for federal protection as well as the nature of that protection. Trademark protection is now available under both state and federal law.

Trademarks include a word, group of words, or logo, or any other device that is able to identify and distinguish a provider of goods and services.

The courts have stated that “trademark law ... can best be explained on the hypothesis that the law is trying to promote economic efficiency.”

A more expansive discussion of trademark law is beyond the scope of

this guide; however, there are numerous references listed in the resource section of this guide which include more comprehensive discussions.

Trade Secrets

A trade secret is an idea or information that retains its value because it is not widely known. Trade secret law protects the secret information from misappropriation by others.

Trade secret law arose from the English common law in the early Nineteenth Century, which addressed misappropriation of secret subject matter in numerous cases that typically involved breaches of confidence. U.S. courts considered this early precedent when deciding cases involving trade secrets in industrialized society.

Trade secrets have traditionally been protected by state law, however, in 2016, the Defend Trade Secrets Act was passed creating the newest form of federally protected intellectual property.

For information to gain protection as a trade secret, there are generally two requirements: there must have been reasonable efforts to maintain the secrecy of the information, and the information must derive commercial value from not being generally known or readily ascertainable. This information may take the form of business methods, processes, formulas, and techniques. Perhaps the best example of a successful and valuable trade secret is the Coca-Cola secret formula.

Trade secrets have potentially perpetual protection; the information retains the status of a trade secret for as long as it remains a secret. Courts evaluate a number of factors to determine whether sufficient precautions were taken to maintain the secrecy of the information that is the subject of a trade secret. These efforts must generally include identification of the trade secret, reasonable efforts to notify others that it regards the information as proprietary, and reasonable efforts to protect against foreseeable intrusions.

Misappropriation of a trade secret can result in both criminal and civil liability. Misappropriation occurs where there is an improper acquisition of a trade secret. Additionally, courts have extended misappropriation to include breach of a confidential relationship. Unlike patents, however, trade secrets do not protect against the reverse engineering of a product sold on the open

market.

A more expansive discussion of trade secret law is beyond the scope of this guide; however, there are numerous references listed in the resource section of this guide which include more comprehensive discussions.

III. What Job Opportunities Exist in Intellectual Property Law?

There are a wide variety of jobs available in the area of intellectual property. These jobs are found in different market sectors (corporate, law firm, government, non-profit, etc.). The majority of jobs are as attorneys and entail many different types of work (litigation, transactional, licensing, etc.). The USPTO also employs hundreds of attorneys that examine trademarks and patents.

Further, what used to be seen as a trend in economics has become a staple for nearly every modern company – treating intellectual property as an asset.

As a result of treating intellectual property as an asset, many corporate jobs have emerged. Lastly, intellectual property practice groups at law firms employ patent agents and technical advisors. A patent agent is professional that is licensed by the USPTO to advise and assist inventors with patent applications. Most patent applications are prepared and filed by patent agents. Technical advisors act like patent agents in many facets, however, they are not licensed by the USPTO.

Attorneys

The nature of legal jobs in intellectual property can vary depending on the market sector of the employment. Regardless of the market, intellectual property attorneys are expected to handle a wide variety of matters.

1. Types of Legal Work

a) **Transactional**

Transactional attorneys generally handle matters relating to obtaining and securing intellectual property rights and exploiting the intellectual property rights of their clients. Transactional matters include:

- ☒ preparation and filing of patents (not exclusively a legal function)
- ☒ preparation and filing of trademarks
- ☒ license agreements
- ☒ joint development agreements
- ☒ clearance/freedom to operate opinions for patents and trademarks
- ☒ patentability opinions
- ☒ identification of technological areas in which opportunity exists for protection of intellectual property rights
- ☒ general management of intellectual property asset portfolios
- ☒ filing for copyrights
- ☒ licensing of copyrights
- ☒ due diligence
- ☒ mergers and acquisitions

b) **Litigation**

Litigation attorneys generally handle matters relating to the protection of intellectual property rights or defense against the enforcement of intellectual property rights. These matters include:

- ☒ research of legal issues
- ☒ due diligence
- ☒ resolving disputes via negotiation and settlement
- ☒ preparation of pleadings (e.g., complaints, answers, motions, etc.)
- ☒ production and review of relevant documents during discovery
- ☒ preparation and taking of depositions during discovery

☒ trial

2. Types of Legal Employers

Legal employers differ according to the clients they represent. For example, in a law firm, the client may be a large or small business or an individual. In the government, the client may be a government agency such as the National Institutes of Health, while in a corporation the client may be different business units within the corporation itself.

a) Law Firms

Private law firms employ the largest number of intellectual property attorneys. Law firms come in all different sizes and types, including large/medium/small and general/specialized. Within an individual firm, there may be still further divisions of intellectual property attorneys, such as litigation/transactional, patent/copyright/trademark, etc.

A 2010 survey of law firm associate salaries by the National Association of Legal Professionals notes that the average salary of a first year intellectual property attorneys is approximately \$135,210 nationwide and approximately \$142,067 in the South. These salaries reflect a premium of about \$15,000 to \$25,000 generally provided to intellectual property attorneys.

b) Corporate

Corporate attorneys are generally responsible for the legal affairs of the corporation for which they work. This may involve personally handling numerous types of legal matters or overseeing the hiring of outside counsel to handle the corporation's legal issues.

c) Government

The government also employs intellectual property attorneys to handle a variety of matters among the many different levels of government. Examples include being a patent examiner or trademark examiner at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, copyright attorney at the U.S. Copyright Office or the Library of Congress, or an intellectual property attorney in the general counsel offices for a government agency (e.g., Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Defense, and Customs and Border Protection).

d) Academic

As with any profession, intellectual property attorneys also work in academia, educating the lawyers of tomorrow on the nuances of the profession. Aside from their classroom responsibilities, professors spend significant amounts of their time researching and writing on legal issues relating to their particular field of expertise for publication in legal journals and for presentations at legal conferences around the world.

Universities also often employ intellectual property attorneys for their legal affairs or technology transfer offices to handle numerous legal matters relating to intellectual property.

e) Non-Profit

There generally are two types of non-profit organizations that seek to hire intellectual property attorneys: organizations that provide free legal representation to individuals and organizations that exist for a purpose other than the pursuit of money.

The first type of non-profit organization provides legal representation to clients who otherwise are unable to afford it. For example, organizations such as Georgia Lawyers for the Arts provide representation to artists in obtaining copyright and trademark protection for their works.

The second type of non-profit organization typically exists for an educational or charitable purpose. Examples include museums and orchestras, which provide cultural enrichment and education to communities without the objective of making a profit to benefit individuals. Although the objective of these organizations is different from that of the business corporation, intellectual property attorneys representing corporations and non-profit organizations must address many of the same issues.

Patent Agents

Patent agents are specialized professionals licensed by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Their main job obligation is to assist inventors on patent applications with their expertise in specific technical backgrounds. Patent agents commonly assist patent attorneys in developing and offering clients patentability opinions on whether an invention is likely or unlikely to be granted a patent.

Unlike any area of law, patent agents are allowed to represent clients before the USPTO on a limited range of matters without actually being a licensed attorney. To become a patent agent, you must pass the Examination for Registration to Practice in Patent Cases, otherwise known as the patent bar exam (See Section V below for more information on the patent bar exam). Most patent agents have a degree in engineering, physics, biology, chemistry, or computer science. Having a graduate degree in today's market is greatly beneficial, however, it is not required.

Business Jobs

Like legal jobs, business jobs in intellectual property can vary depending on the nature of the business organization and the business opportunity.

1. Types of Business Work

a) Asset Building

Most intellectual property business people typically build patents and trademark assets because the other types of intellectual property, such as copyrights and proprietary information, are protected rather easily under the law. Business people who develop intellectual property assets identify innovative opportunities, develop strategies for protecting these innovations, track and predict industry trends, and concern themselves with the financial returns based on investments in protecting these assets.

b) Outmarketing

Business people who work in intellectual property outmarketing typically license and sell intellectual property developed within a company. The three primary areas of intellectual property outmarketing include patent, trademark, and copyright (software/technology). Those in this field identify intellectual property assets in the company that may have potential value to another company, package them in a format that is presentable to another company, identify potential customers (licensees/buyers), contact and pitch customers on the intellectual property, and negotiate license and sale deals.

2. Types of Business Employers

Business employers differ in the type of entities involved in the generation of profits from intellectual property. For example, corporations

can profit from their intellectual property by licensing, selling, and excluding others from using it, while consultants and agents/brokers can help the corporations achieve these goals.

a) Corporate

Corporate business people are generally responsible for developing and executing strategies to build and leverage intellectual property assets. They typically work with business people from the top of the company to understand the corporate goals and missions, and people all the way to the bottom to execute their strategies. Corporate business people typically have specific measurable commitments, such as patent filings and patent issuances, as well as revenues/profits generated from the license/sale of intellectual property assets.

b) Consulting

Consultants typically support corporate business people in building and leveraging intellectual property assets. Consultants' responsibilities can include intellectual property strategy development, brainstorming facilitation, valuation, and licensing/sales support.

c) Agents/Brokers

Agents/brokers typically specialize in finding licensees and buyers for the license and purchase of intellectual property assets from an owner. Agents/brokers often have extensive networks of potential licensees/buyers and have strong customer development and negotiation skills.

d) Academic

Academics who use their intellectual property law background can teach in just about any unit of a university, including business, computers, biotech, and art. Almost every area of a university has important intellectual property issues. Teachers with intellectual property backgrounds are considered valuable.

e) Non-Profit

Most non-profit organization opportunities revolve around technology or art. In most major cities, non-profit organizations exist to facilitate the growth in these areas, and people with intellectual property law backgrounds are highly valued. A prime example is the Georgia Research Alliance, located in Atlanta, Georgia.

IV. Curriculum for Intellectual Property Law

Numerous courses are offered in most law schools that focus directly on intellectual property law or on related areas of law. The following is a brief listing and description of typical classes in intellectual property.

Core Intellectual Property Curriculum

Intellectual Property Law

A survey of federal copyright, patent, and trademark statutes and how they relate to each other.

Copyrights

The study of federal copyright law as it pertains to works of art, motion pictures, music, literature, and computers.

Trademarks/Unfair Competition

The study of common law and federal trademark law, including the acquisition, maintenance, and enforcement of rights as well as remedies available for infringement.

Patent Law

An introduction to patentability, patent infringement, and patent and trademark licensing.

Advanced Intellectual Property Curriculum

Advanced Patent Law

An in-depth study of patentability and patent infringement under the federal patent statute, including the drafting of patent claims and applications.

Intellectual Property Licensing

A study of business agreements involving patents, trade secrets,

trademarks and copyrights, and the negotiation and crafting of such agreements.

International Intellectual Property Comparative Seminar

A comparison of the different areas of intellectual property law in the United States and internationally, particularly in Europe.

Intellectual Property Law Seminar

An advanced study of intellectual property law issues and problems, with the opportunity to conduct in-depth research and writing on a particular area of interest.

Other classes that may be offered at universities include Intellectual Property Litigation, Intellectual Property Management, and Valuation of Intellectual Property.

Courses Including Treatment of Intellectual Property Issues

Arts and Entertainment

A study of specific substantive areas of law as they relate to the arts. Such areas include copyrights, trademarks, rights of publicity, tax, contracts, agency, antitrust, the continental doctrines of “droit moral” (moral rights) and “droit de suite” (resale royalties to the original artist or author), and the Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990.

Sports Law

Analysis of the legal problems of athletes, teams, leagues, and associations and other regulatory concerns relating to sports as a commercial industry.

Biotechnology

A seminar reviewing substantive areas of law relating to biotechnology law, policy, and ethics.

E-Commerce

Analysis of law which regulates electronic transactions, including sale of goods, licenses of software and information, and electronic payments.

Computers and the Law

A survey of the unique legal problems arising from the creation, transfer, and use of computer software and hardware, including intellectual property rights in software, licensing, contracts for the acquisition of computer systems, and tort liability for system and software failures.

Law and the Internet

Analysis of legal issues arising on the internet, including privacy, censorship, security, and email fraud.

Mass Communications Law

Analysis of broadcast and cable rules and regulations, free press and fair trial, libel, privacy and the press, journalist's privilege, the law of news gathering, and access and reply to the press.

Data and Privacy Law

Analysis of the tension between evolving technology and long-established legal principles.

Law, Science, Technology Seminar

A review of how our legal system regards technological and scientific hazards presently facing our society. Illustrative topics include genetic engineering and nuclear energy.

Administrative Law

Analysis of problems confronting state and federal administrative agencies.

Antitrust

Analysis of federal trade regulation statutes, focusing on the competitive tension between the contemporary economy and the relationship between economic theory and antitrust policy.

Regulated Industries

Governmental regulation of selected industries not subject to legal controls applicable to the economy at large, including mass communications.

V. The Patent Bar Examination

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) requires those who prosecute patent applications to take an examination known as the patent bar examination.

Those wishing to take the patent bar examination do not need to be attorneys, but must have the requisite technical background.

Generally, bachelor's degrees in recognized technical subjects are sufficient to qualify for the patent bar. Those without degrees in technical subjects may qualify to sit for the patent bar examination if they satisfy sufficient other criteria to show possession of scientific and technical training. More in-depth information discussing the qualifications to become a registered patent lawyer or agent is available from the USPTO (www.uspto.gov).

The patent bar examination typically consists of approximately 100 multiple choice questions over the laws and regulations governing the prosecution and award of patents. Patent laws are governed by Title 35 of the United States Code, and patent regulations implementing those laws are detailed in Title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The USPTO regulations are summarized in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP). Many companies offer courses to prepare an individual to take the patent bar examination.

Many students choose to take the patent bar examination before graduating from law school. This may prove to be particularly beneficial to students who take the patent bar examination early in law school because there often are opportunities for part-time employment as a patent agent or scientific/technical advisor.

VI. Extracurricular Activities

In addition to the typical courses available at law school, there are extracurricular opportunities from which to gain invaluable experience in intellectual property. Many schools offer the opportunity to intern for class credit. Also, numerous professional organizations dedicated to intellectual property have informative meetings and valuable networking opportunities. Finally, moot court and writing competitions focus on different areas of intellectual property.

Practical Patent Preparation & Prosecution Experience

When seeking to fill an opening for a patent-related position, an employer is more likely to select a candidate that has verifiable patent preparation and prosecution experience. Attaining this experience, however, proves difficult for job seekers that are not currently employed in the patent industry. If you are a job seeker that needs practical patent and prosecution experience to increase your potential job opportunities, the Patent Institute of Training has a solution for you.

[Patent Institute of Training \(www.patent-institute.com\)](http://www.patent-institute.com)

The Patent Institute of Training (PIT) provides law students, recent law graduates, engineers, patent agents, aspiring patent litigators, patent attorneys, and trademark attorneys with the practical patent & trademark drafting experience necessary to enter into an Intellectual Property career. PIT teaches students the patent & trademark drafting process, methods for analyzing different patent & trademark applications, and how to draft sample patent & trademark applications.

The PIT curriculum and learning strategies were developed by patent agents, and patent/trademark attorneys with proven industry success. Patent students draft live patents for clients under the tutelage of patent attorneys with more than 100 years of combined experience. Trademark students focus on the practical aspects of Trademark drafting and prosecution, which is a necessary component to the case law you're learning in law school.

Internships

Most law schools have internship programs that enable students to work in the field for class credit, and many of these programs include internships with organizations that have needs in intellectual property law.

U.S. Copyright Office (www.copyright.gov)

The Office of the Copyright General Counsel provides internship opportunities for second year, third year, and graduate law students. Students assist the Office in its various administrative, regulatory, and other legal work by assisting in the drafting of legislation and legislative reports, conducting rulemakings and issuing regulations under copyright law, and administering statutory licenses and review of legal determinations of the Copyright Royalty Board.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (www.uspto.gov)

The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences often offers summer or semester internships to students. Students work under the supervision of an Administrative Patent Judge, participating in the evaluation of patent appeals and/or interferences and drafting opinions relating to patent appeals and/or interferences.

Many opportunities for summer or semester internships also are available with the federal judiciary who are responsible for handling most intellectual property disputes. Students in the district courts observe legal proceedings and assist writing legal memoranda, jury instructions, and draft opinions. Students in the appellate courts primarily assist with legal research and the drafting of legal memoranda and opinions. Students may apply for judicial internships through their schools or by writing directly to the judge at least six months in advance of the time requested for an internship. Information regarding judicial internships and clerkships is available at lawclerks.ao.uscourts.gov.

Library of Congress (www.loc.gov)

The Library of Congress Office of General Counsel provides both summer and semester internship opportunities to first year and second year law students. Students undertake legal research and writing in virtually all areas of law, including intellectual property.

Professional Organizations

Many practitioners also recommend becoming involved in organizations that focus on intellectual property law. The following is a list of many of them.

American Bar Association (ABA) (www.abanet.org)

One of the largest professional organizations in the world, the “mission of the American Bar Association is to be the national representative of the legal profession, serving the public and the profession by promoting justice, professional excellence and respect for the law.” The ABA has an active Intellectual Property Section that addresses issues of intellectual property law.

American Intellectual Property Lawyer’s Association (AIPLA) (www.aipla.org)

The “AIPLA was formed in 1897 to maintain a high standard of professional ethics, to aid in the improvement in laws relating to intellectual property and in their proper interpretation by the courts, and to provide legal education to the public and to its members on intellectual property issues.”

Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) (www.autm.net)

“The association was founded in 1974 as the Society of University Patent Administrators with the objective of addressing a concern that inventions funded by the U.S. government were not being commercialized effectively. Through the years AUTM has grown beyond this single objective and now provides professional development and networking opportunities for technology transfer professionals at all career levels and from established and newly forming organizations worldwide.”

Federal Circuit Bar Association (FCBA) (www.fedcirbar.org)

FCBA “was organized to unite the different groups who practice within the legal community of the Federal Circuit. It seeks to strengthen and serve the Court through its Committees. The Association offers a forum for common concerns and dialogue between bar and court, government counsel and private practitioner, litigator, and corporate counsel.”

Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO) (www.ipo.org)

IPO “is a trade association for owners of patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets. ... The association advocates effective and

affordable Intellectual Property ownership rights and provides a wide array of services to members. It concentrates on: supporting members' interests relating to legislative and international issues; analyzing current Intellectual Property issues; providing information and educational services; and disseminating information to the general public on the importance of intellectual property rights."

International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) (www.iipa.com)

IIPA is "a private sector coalition formed in 1984 to represent the U.S. copyright-based industries in bilateral and multilateral efforts to improve international protection of copyrighted materials. IIPA is comprised of seven trade associations, each representing a significant segment of the U.S. copyright community. These member associations represent 1,900 U.S. companies producing and distributing materials protected by copyright laws throughout the world."

International Trademark Association (INTA) (www.inta.org)

"INTA's Mission is to support and advance trademarks and related intellectual property as elements of fair and effective national, regional and international commerce. INTA supports this mission and its members through Policy Development & Advocacy and Education, Information & Services."

Licensing Executives Society (LES) (www.lesusacanada.org)

LES is a "professional society comprised of over 6,000 members engaged in the transfer, use, development, manufacture and marketing of intellectual property."

Practicing Law Institute (PLI) (www.pli.edu)

PLI is another organization dedicated to providing accessible, high-quality, continuing legal education and resource materials to attorneys. Courses are frequently offered relating to intellectual property. PLI also offers a well-respected patent bar review course.

State and Local Bar Organizations

Most state and local bar organizations have intellectual property sections and encourage participation by law students and those interested in gaining a better understanding of intellectual property law. The Georgia Bar, for example, has very active Entertainment and Sports Law and Intellectual Property Law sections, both accessible through the Georgia Bar's section websites (www.gabar.org/sections/section_web_pages). These Intellectual

Property sections often sponsor high-quality continuing legal education and resource materials on intellectual-property-related topics. Also, check with local bar associations regarding free membership. For example, the Atlanta Bar Association now offers free student membership, which includes joining the Bar and up to four practice sections such as Intellectual Property.

Competitions

There are also numerous student competitions that focus specifically on different areas of intellectual property law. These competitions can provide an invaluable opportunity for students to develop their legal writing skills or to hone their legal arguments.

Writing

Georgia State University College of Law Intellectual Property Writing Competition

Nathan Burkan Memorial Writing Competition

AIPLA Robert C. Watson Writing Award

AIPLA Quarterly Journal Publication Staff Competition

Federal Circuit Bar Association George Hutchinson Writing Competition

JPTOS Student Paper Contest

Moot Court

AIPLA Giles Sutherland Rich Moot Court Competition

Cardozo/BMI Entertainment Law Moot Court Competition

Saul Lefkowitz Moot Court Competition

Study Abroad

There also are a number of study-abroad programs that have been developed to provide students with an understanding of intellectual property law in a global context. Several universities offering intellectual property study-abroad programs include George Washington University (Munich, Germany), Franklin Pierce Law Center (Beijing, China; Cork, Ireland), Chicago Kent School of Law, University of Connecticut (Kyungpook, Korea), Syracuse University (Beijing, China), and Temple University (Tokyo, Japan). A listing of American Bar Association approved summer and semester study-abroad programs is provided at www.abanet.org/legaled/studyabroad.

VII. Intellectual Property Scholarships

Numerous scholarships are available to assist students interested in pursuing careers in intellectual property law, such as:

Georgia State University College of Law Intellectual Property Scholarship
Federal Circuit Bar Association Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Scholarship
Sidney B. Williams Jr. Scholarship
Jan Jancin Award
ABA/BNA Student Award Program

VIII. Intellectual Property Career Fairs

The Georgia Intellectual Property Alliance hosts the annual Southeastern Intellectual Property Job Fair in Atlanta, Georgia every summer. This career fair is for law students looking for law firm and organization jobs in intellectual property practice groups. While many firms are seeking second year summer associates, the fair is open to all students and alumni of law schools (for more information, go to <https://www.gaipalliance.org/sipjf-southeastern-ip-job-fair>).

The Georgia Intellectual Property alliance also has an online portal for anyone interested in patent agent jobs. This portal is the only one of its kind where firms and organizations post jobs seeking highly qualified individuals to fill roles as patent agents and technical advisors (for more information, go to <https://www.gaipalliance.org/sipjf-southeastern-ip-job-fair>).

IX. Intellectual Property Resources

Additional resources are available for information on intellectual property. For example, numerous blogs have been created to provide up-to-date information on intellectual property.

Intellectual Property Law Generally

<http://www.theiplawblog.com/>

https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/intproperty/450/wipo_pub_450.pdf

<https://www.uspto.gov/>

<http://ipkitten.blogspot.com/>

Copyright Law

<http://williampatry.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.copyright.gov/>

<https://fairuse.stanford.edu/>

Patent Law

<https://patentlyo.com/>

<https://www.ipwatchdog.com/>

<https://anticipatethis.wordpress.com/>

Trademark law

<http://thettablog.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.likelihoodofconfusion.com/>

<http://www.schwimmerlegal.com/>

Additional copies of this guide may be obtained at:

<https://www.gaipalliance.org/>