I. Congressional Developments:

- The Senate Judiciary Committee was scheduled to mark up the Pride in Patent Ownership Act (S. 2774) on Thursday morning, but the Executive Session was canceled. The bill was also on the agenda for a markup last week, but it was held over. More info [here](#).

II. Administration Updates:

- On Wednesday, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced that a Happy Valley, Oregon man was sentenced to federal probation for illegally trafficking counterfeit gun accessories, including suppressors, scopes, grips, and sights, from China for resale as airsoft gun accessories. Find more info [here](#).

III. USPTO Updates:

- On Friday, USPTO announced that Vaishali Udupa, an intellectual property attorney, engineer, and currently a top executive from Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), will join the 13,000-person Department of Commerce agency as the new Commissioner for Patents effective January 17, 2023. More info [here](#).

- USPTO has announced the five winners of the Office’s Patents for Humanity: COVID-19 category competition. The awards recognize innovators for their rapid response to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic through the use of game-changing technologies. The winners include: the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Rockville, Maryland; Regeneron Pharmaceuticals in Tarrytown, New York; University of

Headlines and Highlights:

- Senate Judiciary Committee cancels Executive Session with the Pride in Patent Ownership Act on the agenda.

- Representatives Kildee and Smith raise concern that Mexican government is not upholding its USMCA biotech-related commitments in letter to USTR.

- USPTO announces five winners of the Patents for Humanity: COVID-19 category competition.

- Deadline to request to speak at USPTO-FDA listening session on collaboration initiatives rapidly approaching (Jan 5th).

- Google asks federal court to toss DOJ antitrust lawsuit.

- Intel Corp. asks U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware to throw out a $4.1 billion patent lawsuit from VLSI Technology.
South Florida in Tampa, Florida; Caron Products in Marietta, Ohio; and Gilead Sciences Inc. in Foster City, California. Read more about the competition and the awardees online here.

- On January 19th, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET, USPTO and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are hosting a joint public listening session on ways the two agencies can collaborate to ensure that the innovation system strikes the appropriate balance of encouraging meaningful innovation in drug development while supporting a competitive marketplace that can promote greater access to medicines for American families. Persons wishing to speak at the public listening session must submit their request no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on January 5th, 2023. Find more info here and here.

- USPTO has extended the comment period for stakeholders to submit comments on the Office’s initiatives to ensure the robustness and reliability of patent rights. Comments on the matter are now due February 1st (instead of January 3rd). Find more info here and here.

IV. Judicial Updates:

- A filing that was unsealed late last week revealed that Intel Corp. has asked the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware to throw out a $4.1 billion patent lawsuit from VLSI Technology. The filing from Intel claims that VLSI has not complied with U.S. District Judge Colm Connolly’s standing order for the company to identify “every individual and corporation with a direct or indirect interest.” VLSI has won multiple patent lawsuits against Intel in the past several years, totaling more than $3 billion. Read more here.

- Reuters reports that Google asked a federal court to toss out the Department of Justice’s 2020 lawsuit alleging that the search giant violated antitrust law to maintain dominance in its search business on Monday. The trial for the case is scheduled for September 2023. Read more here.

V. International Updates:

- On Monday, Representative Dan Kildee (D-MI), Chief Deputy Whip of the House Democratic Caucus, and Representative Adrian Smith (R-NE), the top Republican on the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, led a bipartisan group of over twenty Members of Congress in a letter to United States Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai raising concern that the Mexican government “has not lived up to its biotech-related commitments” in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Specifically, the letter raises concern that the Mexican government “has not maintained a science-based biotech regulatory system for the past four years and is moving forward with the implementation of a presidential decree to phase out the importation of genetically engineered corn by January 2024.” Find more info and the full letter here.