



The New York Intellectual Property Law Association®

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Colman B. Ragan
1.973.658.1800
colman.ragan@tevapharm.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Robert M. Isackson
1.914.821.1686
risackson@leasonellis.com

1st VICE-PRESIDENT

Heather M. Schneider
1.212.728.8685
hschneider@willkie.com

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT

Robert J. Rando
1.646.993.1898
rrando@taylorenglish.com

TREASURER

Abigail Struthers
1.917.797.5456
abby.struthers@sandoz.com

SECRETARY

Cheryl Wang
1.646.264.7289
cherylwang.esq@gmail.com

MEMBERS

John T. Moehring
Alicia A. Russo
Diana G. Santos
Patrice P. Jean
Gene W. Lee
Marc J. Pensabene
Jonathan Berschadsky
Paul A. Bondor
John P. Mancini

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Kathleen E. McCarthy
1.212.556.2345
kmcCarthy@kslaw.com

NYIPLA EXECUTIVE OFFICE

2125 Center Avenue, Suite 616
Fort Lee, NJ 07024-5874
Tel: 1.201.461.6603
Fax: 1.201.461.6635
E-Mail: admin@nyipla.org
Website: www.nyipla.org

May 10, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

NYIPLA STATEMENT ON IP WAIVER

The New York Intellectual Property Law Association (NYIPLA) is disappointed by the decision made by the Biden Administration to begin negotiations at the World Trade Organization to waive intellectual property rights under the TRIPS agreement related to COVID-19 vaccines. The NYIPLA continues to believe waiving or weakening IP rights will not solve the identified problem of a lack of safe and effective vaccine production in developing countries. Certainly, we agree that the whole world would benefit from greater supply of COVID-19 treatments and vaccines. Yet we also believe that American support for innovation and strong IP protection led to the development of extremely effective vaccines that are already being produced at record levels. We fear that weakening these protections will hamper—rather than help, the effort to increase global vaccine production and could decrease our innovative capacity in the future.

However, as WTO seeks to find consensus to waive certain IP rights related to COVID-19, the NYIPLA urges the Biden administration to require that any such waiver be narrowly tailored to avoid unintended consequences and unforeseen ramifications that would harm future innovation. Not just in life sciences, but potentially in other key technologies. Otherwise, we worry that any time another country wants to take the fruits of American innovation to supplement or replace their own research and development or commercialization, a broad and ill-defined IP waiver relating to COVID-19 could be used as precedent. The NYIPLA is available as a resource to advise and assist the Biden Administration throughout any WTO IP waiver negotiations, should they occur.

ABOUT NYIPLA

The New York Intellectual Property Law Association (“NYIPLA”) is a bar association of attorneys who practice in the area of patent, trademark, copyright and other intellectual property (“IP”) law. It is one of the largest regional IP bar associations in the United States. Its members include inhouse counsel, for businesses and their organizations, and attorneys in private practice who represent both IP owners and their adversaries (many of whom are also IP owners). Its members represent inventors, entrepreneurs, businesses, universities, and industry and trade associations.