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Agenda

DAY 1 DAY 2

Day 1 — Main Conference
June 2, 2026

(https://www.americanconference.com/women-leaders-ip-law/request-brochure/)

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7:45 am *Continental Breakfast and Registration*

8:30 am **Opening Remarks from the Co-Chairs**

Danielle Ely
Vice President, Digital Legal Affairs
Warner Chappell Music

Sarah Smith
Corporate Counsel, Americas
Lansweeper

8:45 am **PTO Year in Review: Spotlight on Leadership, PTAB, and Future Direction**

Jacqueline Wright Bonilla
Director
Sterne Kessler
Former Deputy Chief Administrative Patent Judge, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

Farheena Rasheed
Partner
Orrick

Lisa Pensabene
Partner
O'Melveny & Myers LLP

This session provides a comprehensive review of USPTO and PTAB developments shaping IP law in 2026. We'll explore leadership changes, policy shifts, AI's growing role in examination and review, and emerging compliance challenges. Analyzing recent USPTO and PTAB leadership changes and their impact on operations.

- Assessing the DOGE-driven personnel shifts and implications for backlog and continuity
- Evaluating AI's influence on patent eligibility, examination standards, and litigation strategies
- Examining the proposed "patent tax" and fee structure changes affecting portfolio management
- Forecasting upcoming legislative and regulatory shifts

9:45 am *Coffee Break*

Halozyme EX2037
Merck v. Halozyme
IPR2026-00314

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10:15 am

Trademark and Brand Protection in the Digital Era

Ceyda Maisami
VP, Associate General Counsel, IP & Standards
HP

Laura Winston
Principal
Offit Kurman

Suet Lee
Global Trademark Attorney
Ford Motor Company

As AI technologies usher in new threats—from algorithmic counterfeiting to automated domain squatting—brand protection has become more complex than ever. This panel explores how AI-generated content is reshaping trademark protection and offers actionable strategies for safeguarding brands in a digital-first marketplace.

- Analyzing emerging risks from AI-generated counterfeits
- Leveraging AI-powered monitoring, streamlined takedown processes, and platform partnerships to detect and respond swiftly
- Identifying domain protection best practices to establish centralized visibility
- Sharing innovative approaches for brand security including cross-functional partnerships with legal, IT, and marketing

11:15 am

Harnessing Technology for Smarter IP Operations: AI, Automation & Beyond

P. Praise Nsoko-Nkwor
Manager, Software development & Compliance
Persado Inc.

Layla Maurer
Staff Attorney
Library Futures, NYU Law Engelberg Center on Innovation Law & Policy

Sophia Roman
Senior Director & Lead Counsel, Emerging Technologies
Walmart

Moderator:
Bhaveeni Parmar
Senior Legal Counsel, Technology
NPR

Legal teams are under pressure to do more with less, and technology promises efficiency—but it also introduces new risks. This session explores practical strategies for leveraging AI-driven tools and automation while maintaining critical human oversight. We'll address the growing skills gap in the next generation of IP professionals, why the "human-in-the-loop" remains essential, and how to make informed decisions about integrating technology into your workflows.

- Implementing AI-powered tools to streamline IP portfolio monitoring and decision-making
- Integrating automation into key IP workflows to reduce manual effort and improve efficiency
- Applying best practices for responsible GenAI adoption in legal operations
- Ensuring human-in-the-loop oversight to mitigate risks and preserve judgment in high-stakes IP decisions
- Evaluating the skills gap in emerging IP talent and strategies for upskilling teams for tech-driven environments
- Deciding when and how to integrate technology—developing criteria for ROI, risk tolerance, and operational fit
- Mitigating risk by ensuring accuracy, accountability, and defensibility across AI-driven and automated IP processes
- Analyzing real-world case studies to uncover lessons from successful technology deployments

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12:15 pm *Networking Luncheon*

1:15 pm

Family Ties in IP: Perspectives on Leadership and Career Choices Across Generations

Hon. Teresa Rea
Consultant
Rea Consulting LLC
Former Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Acting Director, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

Jennifer Rea Deneault
Partner
Groombridge Wu Baughman & Stone

Christine Rea Prihoda
Counsel, Strategic Transactions and M&A
Gilead Sciences

Hon. Teresa Rea, Former Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Acting Director at the USPTO will be joined by two of her daughters who are also leaders in IP law, one in-house, and the other private practice.

Join this intimate and inspiring conversation on how generational perspectives can shape leadership and career decisions in today's evolving IP landscape.

- Exploring how family influences and early exposure to IP can shape career choices
- Identifying strategies for building resilience and confidence at pivotal career moments
- Comparing the realities of in-house versus law firm career paths for women in IP
- Discussing how mentorship and sponsorship differ across generations and practice settings
- Sharing lessons learned about leadership, adaptability, and thriving in a changing IP ecosystem

2:00 pm

Future-Ready Leadership: Driving Inclusion and Innovation in IP

Lisa Jakob
Executive Director, Intellectual Property
Merck

Marylee Jenkins
Partner
ArentFox Schiff LLP

Alanna Moulds
Vice President, Business & Legal Affairs
Universal Music Group

Heidi H. Tandy
Partner
Shutts & Bowen LLP

This session explores how women in IP can champion each other while embracing diverse perspectives to build resilient, innovative teams. Learn the distinctions between allyship, mentorship, and sponsorship, and discover how inclusive leadership models can harness cognitive diversity, including neurodivergent talent, to drive creativity and

success.

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- Clarifying the differences between allyship, mentorship, and sponsorship
- Exploring actionable steps for effective mentorship and sponsorship, including setting goals and creating visibility
- Championing cognitive diversity by recognizing unique strengths and fostering collaboration
- Navigating how to find and attract diverse talent aligned with emerging IP challenges and innovation goals
- Sharing success stories and lessons learned from women who have championed others and built inclusive teams

3:00 pm *Networking Break*

Focus on Inventorship

3:30 pm

Working with Outside Counsel for Inventor Interviews

Ching-Lee Fukuda
Partner
Sidley Austin LLP

SunHee Lehmann Thomas
Senior Patent Counsel
Henkel Corporation

The relationship between in-house counsel and inventors is foundational for capturing accurate, high value invention quickly and cost-effectively as well as protecting the inventor's interests throughout the process. This session begins by exploring how strong communication and trust between these parties set the stage for success. From there, we examine how outside counsel plays a critical role in preserving and enhancing this dynamic. Gain practical strategies to streamline interviews, align expectations, and optimize resources for better outcomes.

- Establishing effective protocols between in-house counsel and inventors
- Understanding the legal obligations of inventorship and the importance of clear communication between inventor and in-house counsel
- Evaluating criteria for selecting outside counsel that fits your business needs and culture
- Aligning outside counsel with internal processes and priorities
- Sharing real-world examples of successful collaborations among in-house and outside counsel as well as the inventors
- Lessons learned from common pitfalls

4:15 pm

Inventorship and Ownership Challenges in the Age of AI

Rama Elluru
Senior Advisor for AI Governance and Intellectual Property
Special Competitive Studies Project – SCSP

Angela B. Freeman
Partner, Life Sciences and Engineering Practice Units
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Priyata Patel
Partner
Dechert LLP

As AI systems contribute to innovation, questions around inventorship and ownership are entering unknown territory. This session examines recent developments, practical corporate considerations, and strategies for compliance in a rapidly changing landscape.

- Assessing the legal implications of AI-generated inventions and their effect on inventorship standards
- What risks does this pose to ownership
- Interpreting recent case law and USPTO guidance to anticipate future trends regarding AI, innovation, and inventorship
- Formulating protocols that align corporate IP practices regarding AI and innovation with the latest guidance
- Mitigating inventorship and ownership risks in global patent filings through proactive planning and jurisdictional awareness
- Implementing best practices for managing AI-related disclosures to ensure accuracy and transparency

5:00 pm *Day 1 Adjourns*

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