

2026
AIPLA  Spring
MEETING

MEETING PREVIEW

*The Future of IP
in an AI-Driven World:
Opportunities and
Safeguards*

May 13 - 15, 2026
Fairmont San Francisco

AIPLA Spring Meeting

AIPLA Board of Directors

Salvatore Anastasi

President
Barley Snyder
Malvern, PA

Matthew Wagner

President-Elect
PDC Brands
Stamford, CT

Nancy J. Mertz

First Vice President
Mertzel Law PLLC
New York, NY

W. Todd Baker

Second Vice President
Kirkland & Ellis
Washington, DC

Bea Swedlow

Secretary
Honigman LLP
Ann Arbor, MI

Stephanie J. Bald

Treasurer
Kelly IP
Washington, DC

Kimberly Van Voorhis

Immediate Past President
Nike, Inc
Beaverton, OR

Vincent E. Garlock

Executive Director
AIPLA

Scott Pivnick

General Counsel
AIPLA

Michael Atlass

Qualcomm Incorporated
San Diego, CA

Brad Y. Chin

Bracewell LLP
Washington, DC

Christopher V. Carani

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
Chicago, IL

Lauren Emerson

Leason Ellis LLP
Goldens Bridge, NY

Rivka Jungreis

Teva Pharmaceuticals Industries
Parsippany, NJ

Rachel Kahler

Carlson Caspers
Minneapolis, MN

Sarah Knight

Talem IP Law
Gainesville, FL

Yelena Morozova

Finnegan Henderson - DC
London, UK

John Salazar

Gray Ice Higdon
Louisville, KY

Angela D. Sebor

Tolmar, Inc.
Fort Collins, CO

Christal Sheppard

*University of Nebraska
College of Law*
Lincoln, NE

Richard Stockton

Banner Witcoff
Chicago, IL

2026 Spring Meeting Planning Committee



Nancy Mertz

Officer-in-Charge
Mertzel Law, PLLC
New York, NY



Ury Fischer

Chair
Lott & Fischer, PL
Coral Gables, FL



Felicia Boyd

Vice Chair
Norton Rose Fulbright - US
Minneapolis, MN



Brad Chin

Board Liaison
Duane Morris, LLP
Washington, DC

Ali Anoff

Procter & Gamble
Cincinnati, OH

Brian Batzli

Merchant & Gould
Minneapolis, MN

Ernest Beffel, Jr

Haynes Beffel & Wolfeld, LLP
Half Moon Bay, CA

Erin Block

Godfrey & Kahn
Brookfield, WI

Ping Cao

BeOne Medicines
West Chester, PA

Santosh Chari

CPST Intellectual Property
Toronto, Ontario

Kristin Cleveland

Klarquist Sparkman LLP
Portland, OR

Ian Clouse

Holland & Hart LLP
Salt Lake City, UT

William Cooper

Cooper Legal Group, LLC
Hinckley, OH

Iva Dincheva

Fox Rothschild
New York, NY

Azade Dogan

Woodland Hills, CA

Karl Fink

Nixon Peabody
Chicago, IL

Adam Fowles

Haynes Boone
Plano, TX

Joshua Goldberg

Nath, Goldberg & Meyer
Brooklyn, NY

Brian Gray

Brian Gray Law
Toronto, Ontario

Alyssa Heminger

*George Washington
University of Law*
Washington, DC

Rafael Heres

Legarreta y Asociados, SC
Mexico City, Mexico

Seth Hudson

Maynard Nexsen
Charlotte, NC

Elizabeth Isaac

Spencer Fane PLLC
Oklahoma City, OK

Shradha Jaiswal

AOP Health
Washington, DC

Benjamin Keim

Newport IP, LLC
Bellevue, WA

Tracy Kepler

CNA
Chicago, IL

Barry Landy

Ciresi Conlin LLP
Minneapolis, MN

Zong-Wei (Wade) Lin

W&A Intellectual Property Law
Edmonds, WA

Margarita Lopez

Lancaster, CA

Praveen Manimangalam

*Florida International
University College of Law*
Irving, TX

Nicolas Marquez Peraca

Norton Rose Fulbright
Houston, TX

John Marsh

Bailey Cavallieri
Worthington, OH

Richard Matthews

Williams Mullen
Raleigh, NC

Jennifer Nall

DLA Piper
Austin, TX

Margaret Polson

Polson Intellectual Property Law PC
Westminster, CO

Hannah Powell

Haynes Beffel & Wolfeld LLP
Blacklick, OH

Cole Price

*Michigan State University
College of Law*
Greensboro, NC

Gagana Reddy

*George Washington
University of Law*
Washington, DC

Marc Richards

Crowell & Moring LLP
Chicago, IL

Brian Rojas

Cliffside Park, NJ

Ned Sackman

Bernstein Shur, P.A.
Manchester, NH

Ayyah Saleh

*George Washington
University of Law*

Washington, DC

Neil Smith

Alamo, CA

Barrett Spraggins

Spraggins Law Group PLLC
Austin, TX

Jessie Suen

Squire Patton Boggs LLP
San Francisco, CA

Kelu Sullivan

Kelly IP, LLP
Washington, DC

Christopher Turoski

University of Minnesota Law School
Minneapolis, MN

Gene Volchenko

Smith Gambrell & Russell
Chicago, IL

Stanton D. Weinstein

Fort Washington, PA

Frank West

*Oblon, McClelland, Maier
& Neustadt LLP*
Alexandria, VA

Dear AIPLA Members and Friends,

Welcome to the 2026 AIPLA Spring Meeting, taking place May 13-15, 2026, at the Fairmont San Francisco!

This year's theme, "**The Future of IP in an AI-Driven World: Opportunities and Safeguards**," reflects the intersection of innovation and intellectual property law. As AI technologies continue to evolve and reshape industries, this meeting will provide practical insights, critical analysis, and forward-looking perspectives on IP policy and practice.

Over the course of the Meeting, you'll have the chance to engage with thought leaders, participate in insightful discussions, and gain actionable knowledge on issues that matter most to IP practitioners.

In addition to substantive programming, we are offering our popular hands-on workshops designed to enhance your skills and expand your toolkit for today's practice.

Beyond the sessions, the Spring Meeting is a great opportunity to connect with colleagues, build new relationships, and engage with fellow IP professionals in person. We encourage you to take part in networking events throughout the program and make the most of your time together in San Francisco.

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2026 AIPLA Spring Meeting — where innovation, community, and the future of IP law come together.

See you in May!

Salvatore Anastasi

President

Nancy Mertz

Officer-in-Charge, 2026 Spring Meeting

AIPLA First Vice President

The 2026 Spring Meeting Offers:

- Unsurpassed Networking
- Engaging and Inspiring Speakers
- Group Registration Discounts

General Information

Registration and Exhibit Hours

Tuesday: 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Wednesday: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Thursday: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Friday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm*

* CLE table will stay open until 1 pm and the Exhibits will close at 10:30 am.

Helpful Hints

- Lunch receptions are open to everyone to meet and network.
- All meeting registrants will have advanced access to meeting materials online and in the app.
- Access to handouts and meeting papers are available at the on-site Technology Center or via the Meeting App.

CLE Information

The 2026 Spring Meeting offers up to **525** in-person CLE minutes including up to **105** minutes of Ethics, as well as **180** minutes of Technology for eligible jurisdictions. Credit amounts will vary by jurisdiction, based upon each jurisdiction's approval, regulations, and credit calculation.

Skills Workshops

AIPLA will be offering in-depth skills workshops at the Spring Meeting. **Please be sure your experience aligns with the workshop's requirements and targeted audience.** The workshops offer a chance to learn and engage with instructors in a smaller setting. The workshops will be limited to 20 people unless noted otherwise, run at the same time as tracks, and attendees will be required to review any materials the instructor has listed as prerequisites. **CLE will not be offered, and separate registration is required. Additional details will be provided following general Spring Meeting registration.**

General Meeting Sponsors:

Banner Witcoff, Ltd.; DLA Piper; Gray Ice Higdon, PLLC; JAMS; Krishna & Saurastri Associates, LLP; McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.; Mueting Raasch Group; Worldwide IP Solutions

Meeting Lanyards:

Federis and Associates

Attendee Gift sponsored

in part by:

Barley Snyder

Mobile App:

Knobbe Martens



Table of Contents

Board of Directors / Planning Committee	2
Program Sessions	5
Accommodations.....	13
Special Registration Options & Discounts	14
Registration & Cancellation Information.....	15
Registration Form.....	16

Media Partners:



The Spring Meeting is on Social Media!

Follow AIPLA on LinkedIn, Facebook, X, and Instagram (@aipladc) and post during the Meeting using the hashtag **#aiplaSM26!** All sessions for the Spring Meeting have been approved as Insurance Discount Eligible as part of AIPLA's Professional Liability Insurance Program. 

Program as of March 20, 2026
Subject to change.

Advanced Chemical & Biotech Patent Institute

The Advanced Chemical & Biotech Patent Institute is an in-depth continuing legal education program tailored specifically for experienced patent practitioners in the chemical and biotech fields. This advanced course offers a comprehensive view from both prosecution and litigation perspectives, covering crucial topics relevant to practice in the US and internationally.

Program Highlights:

Advanced Patent Prosecution Techniques: Master the nuances of preparing and prosecuting patent applications effectively from experts with 20+ years of experience.

Navigating Legal Challenges: Explore the complexities of written description from both U.S. and global perspectives and learn strategies to withstand challenges from the PTAB and the courts.

Optimize Your Patent Practice: Understand and adapt to changes stemming from recent legislative updates and USPTO guidelines.

Due Diligence in View of Current Case Law: Gain insights into conducting thorough due diligence, considering the latest developments in case law.

Leveraging AI Tools: Discover how to utilize AI technologies to enhance efficiency and optimize your patent practice.

Client Counseling and Strategic Decisions: Enhance your ability to counsel clients effectively and make informed strategic portfolio and business decisions.

Registration Rates:

Members: \$495

Nonmembers: \$895

Spring Meeting Attendee Members: \$295

Spring Meeting Attendee Nonmembers: \$495

Agenda:

Day 1 - May 11th

1:00 - 1:15 PM	Welcome and Introductions
1:15 - 2:15 PM	Inequitable Conduct & USPTO Policy
2:20 - 3:05 PM	Advanced Patent Prosecution Strategies
3:25 - 4:25 PM	Global Perspectives on Clinical Trials
4:30 - 4:55 PM	UPC and Implications for Chemical Practice
6:30 - 8:30 PM	Networking Reception

Day 2 - May 12th

8:00 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30 - 8:45 AM	Welcome and Introductions
8:45 - 9:25 AM	112: Written Description Requirement Workshop - Part 1: US
9:30 - 10:10 AM	112: Written Description Requirement Workshop - Part 2: International
10:10 - 10:35 AM	112: Written Description Requirement Workshop - Part 3: Interactive Problem Solving
10:35 - 10:50 AM	Break
10:50 - 11:50 AM	AI Tools
11:50 - 12:00 PM	Break
12:00 - 12:25	ODP
12:25 - 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 - 2:15 PM	Skinny Label - <i>Hikema v Amarin</i>
2:50 - 3:15 PM	Orange Book
3:15 - 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 - 4:30 PM	Due Diligence

Thank You to Our Sponsors!



■ 12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM

AIPLA Board of Directors Meeting

■ 3:00 - 5:00 PM

AIPLA Board/Committee Leadership Meeting

■ 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Pre-Registration

If you registered in advance, please stop by and pick up your badge and meeting materials.

■ 6:30 - 8:00 PM

AIPLA Board/Committee Leadership Networking Event

■ 6:45 AM

5K Fun Run

Meet in the hotel lobby to join the run.

Sponsored by: Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP; NL Patent



■ 6:45 - 8:45 AM ⚡

Corporate Practice Committee Breakfast Meeting (In-house practitioners only)

Sponsored in part by: Klaquist Sparkman, LLP

Presented by:

Robert Scotti, Klarquist Sparkman, LLP, Portland, OR

Greg Maurer, Klarquist Sparkman, LLP, Portland, OR

■ 7:45 - 8:45 AM

Committee Meetings

View the full [committee schedule](#) on the Spring Meeting website or in the Meeting App.

■ 9:00 - 10:00 AM

OPENING PLENARY



Join AIPLA President **Sal Anastasi** as we kick off the 2026 Spring Meeting and get a preview of the week ahead.

The Opening Plenary keynote speaker will be announced soon.



10:15 AM - 12:00 NOON - Concurrent Tracks

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 1 - 10:15 - 11:00 AM

AI and Patent Prosecution: Where Are We Now?

The USPTO formally rescinded the February 2024 Biden-era guidance that allowed AI systems to perform acts that, if performed by a human, could constitute inventorship, consistent with decisions such as *Thaler v. Vidal*. The February 2024 guidance provided that “a natural person must have significantly contributed to each claim in a patent application or patent,” requiring careful scrutiny of prompts presented to the AI system to determine whether the natural person made significant contributions.

Moderator: Mark Liang, O’Melveny & Myers LLP, San Francisco, CA

Speakers:

Stephanie Curcio, NLPatent, Toronto, ON

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 2 - 10:15 - 11:00 AM

Risks of Using AI-Generated Content

The risks of infringement from AI-generated content mimicking existing content, images, and brands (logos, names, slogans), leading to consumer confusion, dilution, and brand damage, while also challenging how to protect AI-created original content, with companies needing to actively police AI use and ensure AI training data avoids IP infringement to safeguard their brands. Key problems include AI generating “look-alike” content, AI chat-bots hallucinating misleading brand affiliations, and difficulty attributing liability when infringement occurs, pushing for new legal guidelines.

Moderator: Kimberly Van Voorhis, Nike, Inc., Beaverton, OR

Speakers:

Tsan Abrahamson, Cobalt LLP, Berkeley, CA

NON-CLE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

The Hague Convention for International Design Filings - A Hands-on Program with WIPO

This session is designed for users who have a good understanding of the basics of the Hague and know how to file an application. We will be working on advanced filing strategies and showing you how to use the most recent tools launch by WIPO and possible get to preview some in development.

Instructors:

11:00 - 11:15 AM COFFEE BREAK

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 1 - 11:15 AM - 12 Noon

Back From The Dead(line) - “Due Care” and Patent Reinstatement Around the World

During the lifetime of a patent or patent application various deadlines are encountered and in many instances missing such deadlines, even unintentionally, may result in abandonment of the patent/application. A number of jurisdictions provide avenues for the reinstatement of patents or applications that passed to abandonment if it can be demonstrated that the abandonment occurred despite the exercise of “due care”. However, the requirements to successfully meet this standard vary and are contingent on actions taken by all involved parties prior to the date of abandonment. As such, retroactive corrective measures are often unavailable. This panel will discuss the “due care” requirements under Canadian, U.S., and European practices and provide valuable insight to mitigate against inadvertent loss of patent rights.

Moderator: Ali Anoff, Procter & Gamble Company, Cincinnati, OH

Speakers:

Warren Zitlau, Cahn & Samuels LLP, Washington, DC
 Morten Garberg, Hoffman Eitle, Munich, Germany
 Melanie Szweras, Smart & Biggar, LP, Toronto, Canada

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 2 - 11:15 AM - 12 Noon

Data-Rich IP Transactions: AI-Driven Deals, Trade Secrets, and Privacy

As companies increasingly build value around data sets, machine-learning models, and algorithm-driven products, IP transactions are rapidly evolving. Traditional frameworks for trade secrets, copyright, and patent licensing now intersect with privacy law, cyber security obligations, and emerging AI regulations. This panel will examine how outside and in-house counsel can structure agreements where training data, models, and derived outputs each function as distinct assets, raising novel questions about ownership, confidentiality, cross-border transfers, indemnification, and auditability. Speakers will provide practical guidance for negotiating AI-heavy collaborations, managing risk in data-centric M&A and joint development agreements, and aligning trade secret protection with privacy and regulatory compliance in the U.S., EU, and key Asian jurisdictions.

Moderator: Christal Sheppard, University of Nebraska College of Law, Lincoln, NE

Speakers:

Sean Collin, Elastic, San Francisco, CA
 Dick Thurston, RLT Global Consulting LLC, Wappingers Falls, NY

NON-CLE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Patent Drafting 101

The skills workshop is directed to law students, patent agents, and attorneys with little or no experience preparing patent applications, or returning to the field. The workshop will cover essential topics such as best practices for drafting claims and specifications based on the latest case law, as well as interviewing inventors, determining inventorship and handling filing formalities.

Instructors:

Anthony Curtis, Schwegman Lundberg & Woessner, P.A., Champaign, IL
 Matthew Marrone, Denneweyer & Associates LLC, Chicago, IL

12:00 - 12:30 PM

Networking Luncheon Reception (Open to all attendees)

12:30 - 2:00 PM

Keynote Luncheon

2:15 - 4:00 PM Concurrent Tracks and Skills Workshop

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 1 - 2:15 - 3:00 PM

A Fresh Start on Subject Matter Eligibility?

Strategies for overcoming 101 rejections, particularly in view of the USPTO Guidance of August 2025. In addition, the panel will discuss techniques for fortressing your applications to defend against latter attacks that the claims are directed to ineligible subject matter under Alice or are not of a “technical character,” in the EU.

Moderator:

Speakers:

Ryan Pool, Millen, White, Zelano & Branigan, Arlington, VA
Phil Harris, Holland & Hart, Denver, CO

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 2 - 2:15 - 3:00 PM

The Impact of AI on ISP Liability for Copyright Infringement

ISPs need to take care to avoid liability for copyright infringement by compliance with the strictures of the DMCA. This presentation will examine the impact of AI on the DMCA statutory framework with the advent of AI generated take-down notices and the use of AI tools to detect copyright infringement. The presentation will include a review of the DMCA's conduct standards and downside risks for failure to meet those standards, including the Cox issued decisions on the knowledge standards for direct, contributory, and vicarious infringement, and the *Athos Overseas Ltd. Corp. v. YouTube Inc.* et al., decision in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Moderator: Sam Eichner, Norton Rose Fulbright, New York, NY

Speakers:

Mark Traphagen, George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC

CONCURRENT NON-CLE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Navigating the Intersection Between IP and Regulatory Exclusivities for Protecting and Evaluating Pharmaceutical, Biologic, and Medical Device Products

This panel will explore why IP practitioners should understand regulatory exclusivities and how that knowledge enhances value in pharmaceutical, biologic, and medical device development. Patent and regulatory exclusivities significantly influence prosecution strategy, commercialization planning, M&A and licensing decisions, and litigation. Because regulatory strategy is closely connected to IP protection and competitive positioning, aligning these approaches can help identify and maximize exclusivity opportunities. The discussion will highlight how patent and regulatory frameworks work together and why both private and in-house counsel benefit from understanding both regimes.

Instructors:

Alexandra Smythe, IDE Group, Philadelphia, PA
Angela Sebor, Tolmar, Inc., Fort Collins, CO
Rivka Jungreis, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Parsippany, NJ

Hosted by: Food and Drug Committee

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 1 - 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Ethics CLE*

Lawyers' Liability: The Game of Risk and Reward in an AI World

As the legal landscape evolves, understanding both the recurring and emerging risks and challenges that our client's face is crucial. This panel will discuss the data compiled in the recent ABA Profile of Legal Malpractice Claims and similar reports, examining not only the micro—facts and figures, where administrative and substantive errors are being made, and especially problematic areas of IP practice, but also the macro—an exploration of key developments, including technology and AI, the economy, emerging regulatory concerns, and cybersecurity. The speakers will also provide some insight on how to minimize exposure to these professional liability claims and stay ahead of the trends.

Speakers:

Mary McDermott, CNA, Chicago, IL
Douglas Richmond, Lockton Companies, Olathe, KS

Hosted by: Committee on the Profession

***Note: This is a 60 minute ETHICS CLE session**

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 2 - 3:15 - 4:00 PM

AI and Evidence Before the TTAB

Understanding how to properly submit evidence to TTAB, including with your initial pleadings, is critical to ensure an accurate and complete record. The recent (Nov. 2025) decision in *In re Jiminez* discusses in detail the rules around video submissions, but there are many other rules of which to be cognizant, including USPTO rules regarding human responsibility, verification of accuracy, and the prohibition of AI-generated content that does not represent actual marketplace use where AI is employed.

Moderator: Rebecca Roby, Warshawsky Law Group, Winter Garden, FL

Speakers:

Mary Beth Myles, Greenberg Taurig

CONCURRENT NON-CLE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Ex Parte Appeals

Ins and Outs, practice pointers, how to maximize the ex parte patent appeal process.

Instructor: David Boundy, Pierson Ferdinand LLP, Newton Centre, MA

3:00 - 3:15 PM COFFEE BREAK



4:00 - 6:00 PM

Committee Meetings

View the full [committee schedule](#) on the Spring Meeting website or in the Meeting App.

6:00 - 7:00 PM

New Member/First-Time Attendee Reception

We welcome all new AIPLA members and first-time conference attendees and their sponsors and mentors to join us for a networking event.

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Opening Night Reception: "Island Night at the Tonga Room"

Kick off the Spring Meeting at San Francisco's iconic Tonga Room—an unforgettable setting to connect with colleagues and start the week on a high note.

Sponsored in part by: Forresters; Shook, Hardy & Bacon



6:45 - 8:45 AM

Women in IP Law Committee Breakfast Meeting

Know Your Worth: Mastering Self-Advocacy and Negotiation Skills for Women in Intellectual Property

Gina will address the critical challenges faced by women in IP: advocating effectively for ourselves and recognizing our true value as IP professionals. Through practical insights and proven strategies, Gina will explore why self-negotiation often feels uncomfortable, particularly for women in IP, and how to overcome these barriers. Learn essential techniques for navigating career advancement opportunities, conducting successful compensation discussions, and championing your professional development. Whether you're seeking a promotion, discussing salary, or positioning yourself for new opportunities, this session will equip you with the confidence and tools to negotiate effectively and claim the recognition you deserve in the IP field.



Presented by: Gina Steele, Steele Leadership, Inc.

Sponsored in part by: Foley Hoag, LLP; Merchant & Gould P.C.

7:45 - 8:45 AM

Committee Meetings

View the full [committee schedule](#) on the Spring Meeting website and in the Meeting App.

9:00 - 10:00 AM

MORNING PLENARY

To come

10:15 AM – 12:00 NOON - Concurrent Tracks

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 1 - 10:15 - 11:00 AM

IPR Institutions in Flux

Current State of PTAB Practice – Discussion regarding how PTAB institution order practice has changed in the past year, the newly proposed rules and guidance, as well as pending legislation before Congress.

Moderator: Raghav Bajaj, Latham & Watkins, Austin, TX

Speaker:

Tammy Pennington Rhodes, Supercharger, Houston, TX
 Brian Banner, Slayden Grubert Beard PLLC, Austin, TX
 Joshua Goldberg, Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP, Arlington, VA

Hosted by: PTAB Trial Committee

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 2 - 10:15 - 11:00 AM

The Impact of AI on Trade Secrets: What Every Lawyer and Client Needs to Know

As AI continues to reshape the business and legal landscape, this panel will address what businesses should be doing to protect their trade secrets and data in this ever-changing environment, including the use of AI tools. This panel will also address emerging legal authority that may define how courts consider the impact of AI on trade secret law in the future, including the ability of a competitor to reverse engineer information through AI.

Speakers:

Jim Ko, The AI Rights Project, Phoenix, AZ
 Sarah Tishler, Beck Reed Riden LLP, Boston, MA
 Matthew D'Amore, Cornell Law School, New York, NY

Hosted by: Committee on Privacy and Data Security

NON-CLE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Securing Patent Foreign Licenses

Instructors:

Hayley Talbert, SeedIP, Seattle, WA
 Matt Montgomery, Holland & Hart, Boise, ID

Hosted by: Online Programs Committee

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 1 - 11:15 AM - 12 Noon

The Innovation and IP Partnership: Success Stories

Moderator:

Speakers:

11:00 - 11:15 AM COFFEE BREAK

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 2 - 11:15 AM - 12 Noon

Trade Secret Identification in Litigation

Nationwide Discussion of Pleading Requirements for Identification of Trade Secrets in Litigation and Effect of *Quintara Biosciences v. Ruifeng Biztech*, Appeal No. 23-16093 (9th Cir.) on federal DTSA cases.

Moderator:

Speakers:

Barry Landy, Ciresi Conlin, Minneapolis, MN
 James Gale, Cozen O'Connor, Miami, FL

NON-CLE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Trademark Prosecution 101

Come learn the basics of trademarks, what is use, what is likelihood of confusion? Designed for those new to trademarks.

Instructor: Shana Olson, Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.C., Washington, DC



■ 12:00 - 12:30 PM

Networking Luncheon Reception (Open to all attendees)

■ 12:30 - 2:00 PM 

Keynote Luncheon

■ 2:15 - 4:00 PM Concurrent Tracks and Skills Workshop

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 1 - 2:15 - 3:00 PM

Current State of the Failure to Function Doctrine

This panel examines the rapid evolution of the “failure-to-function” doctrine in trademark prosecution and litigation, focusing on how recent decisions are reshaping what can (and cannot) serve as a trademark. Using the Federal Circuit’s 2025 decision in *In re Brunetti* and the district court rulings in *Penn State v. Vintage Brand* as anchors, the program would walk through recent precedents involving slogans, social messages, and Internet memes (including *In re Lizzo LLC* and other commonplace-phrase cases), as well as litigated disputes where defendants have asserted failure-to-function as a defense to infringement cases (including *Vintage Brand* as well as other recent decisions like *Top Brand v. Cozy Comfort*). The session would emphasize practical takeaways for brand owners and in-house counsel: how examining attorneys are using marketplace evidence to support refusals; how failure-to-function interacts with related doctrines like ornamentation and genericness; and what prosecution, clearance, and enforcement strategies can mitigate risk and build a record to either avoid or overcome these refusals in a post-*Brunetti* landscape.

Moderator:**Speakers:**

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 2 - 2:15 - 3:00 PM

Bringing Back Means-Plus-Function Claiming

As enablement and written description standards become increasingly challenging, means-plus-function claiming has resurfaced as a potential tool for securing broader and more diverse patent claims. However, many practitioners—and even examiners—are now less familiar with this claiming format. To use it effectively, practitioners must revisit the historical case law and reacquaint themselves with how to incorporate this approach into their toolbox.

Moderator: Laura Smalley, Harris Beach, PLLC, Pittsford, NY**Speakers:**

Tom Irving, The Marbury Law Group, PLLC, Reston, VA
 Karen Potter, Morrison & Foerster LLP, San Diego, CA

Hosted by: Patent Agents Committee

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 1 - 3:15 - 4:00 PM

Behind the Dialogue: Improving Your Patent Examiner Interview Skills

Examiner interviews remain one of the most effective tools in patent prosecution—but how well do we really understand this practice? The USPTO recently introduced USPTO AIR, a web-based platform that allows applicants to request and conduct interviews for their pending applications. Whether you’re new to practice or a seasoned practitioner, interviewing examiners is a skill that needs continual refinement. In this session, we hope to bring in USPTO Examiners to share their insights and perspectives

Moderator: William Cooper, Cooper Legal Group, Hinckley, OH**Speakers:**

Ernest Beffel, Jr, Haynes Beffel & Wolfeld, LLP, Half Moon Bay, CA

Hosted by: Patent Relations with the USPTO Committee

CONCURRENT CLE TRACK 2 - 3:15 - 4:00 PM

Current Trends in IP Mediation and Arbitration at the WIPO Center

Businesses, collaborations, and other innovators are frequently turning to mediation and arbitration for efficient IP dispute resolution outside of court, to save on time and costs and do so in a more flexible and confidential way. Led by experienced practitioners, the session will cover important developments in the areas of FRAND/SEP mediation, mediation involving IP-related AI disputes, dispute referrals from Chinese IP Courts, and the use of AI in arbitration proceedings, as well as a look at the current caseload statistics of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center.

Moderator:**Speakers:**

Adam Rattray, World Intellectual Property Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
 Michele Herman, JusTech Law, PLLC, Bellevue, WA

Matthew Reed, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Mountain View, CA

3:00 - 3:15 PM COFFEE BREAK

CONCURRENT NON-CLE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

The Art of Gathering

A practical, discussion-driven workshop inspired by Priya Parker’s *The Art of Gathering* to help IP professionals rethink how we design and run our meetings. Parker’s book argues that meaningful gatherings begin with a sharp purpose, intentional participation and structure, and explicit norms that foster trust, energy, and results. Anchored in two core themes—clarifying purpose and setting explicit rules—we will create space for candid discussion and actionable takeaways that can be used in firm, in-house, and committee settings. The session will feature two small-group conversations, each introduced with a brief framing of Parker’s ideas, followed by quick report-outs to the whole room. Participants will surface the unspoken norms of professional meetings, respond to provocative prompts on when a meeting should exist at all, and explore how clear rules can enable—not stifle—better decisions and engagement. It is not necessary to have read the book to fully participate in the workshop.

Instructor:

Karl Fink, Nixon Peabody, Chicago, IL

It’s All About the Prompts! The AI Prompts

Learn how to craft effective prompts to generate useful AI content on various AI platforms.

Instructor:

Ann McCrackin, AI-Enabled Attorney LLC, Cavendish, VT



Thursday, May 15, 2026

All times listed are Pacific Time

DAY 3

■ 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Committee Educational Sessions and Business Meetings

View the full [committee schedule](#) on the Spring Meeting website or in the Meeting App.

■ 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Diversity in IP Law Reception

Sponsored in part by: Baker Botts, LLP; Morrison & Foerster

■ 8:00 - 10:00 PM ⚡

Dinner Celebration

Friday, May 15, 2026

All times listed are Pacific Time

DAY 3

■ 9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

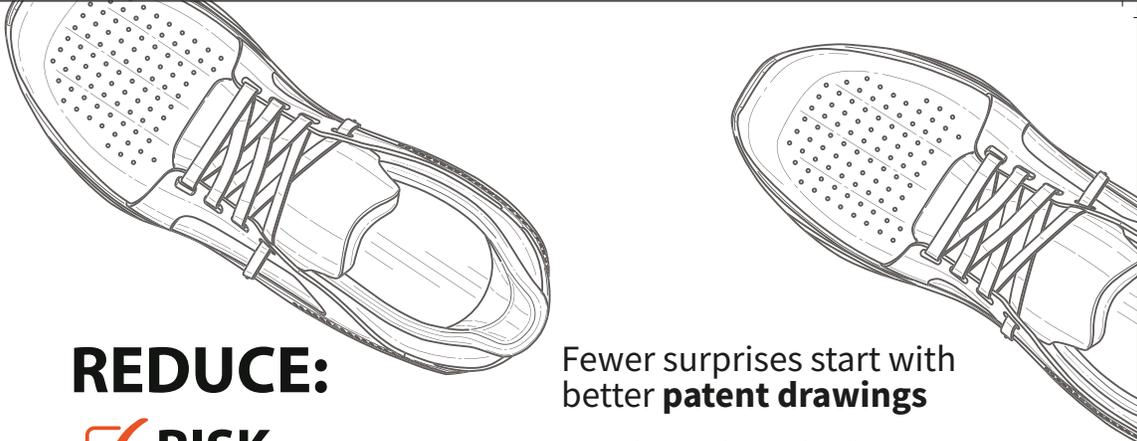
CLOSING PLENARY

The Evolution of AI's Role in Business

Business leaders will discuss their embrace of AI and how each has assessed and balanced the risk of AI use to create businesses which thrive. Be prepared to hear how these businesses made it to the finish line with successful products and services which rely on AI.

■ 12:30 - 4:00 PM

AIPLA Board of Directors' Meeting (for Board Members and Invited Guests only)



REDUCE:

- ✓ **RISK**
- ✓ **REWORK**
- ✓ **OBJECTIONS**

Fewer surprises start with better patent drawings

Patent drawings do more than illustrate an invention. They affect clarity, scope, and examiner response. Experience helps identify issues before they become objections.

Trusted by patent professionals for over 60 years.

 northern virginia GRAPHICS |  nvg-inc.com |  703-539-8883 |  nvginc@nvg-inc.com

Fairmont San Francisco

950 Mason Street
San Francisco, CA 94108



Book your room today!

<https://book.passkey.com/go/AIPLA2026SpringConference>

AIPLA RATE: \$329 plus applicable taxes

Room block rate expires Monday, April 20, 2026.

To book via phone: 1-800-441-1414

Visit: <https://www.fairmont-san-francisco.com/>

AIPLA does NOT engage any third party vendors to assist with room reservations. All room reservations should be made directly using the reservation link above, or by contacting the Fairmont San Francisco directly.

Your reliable partners for intellectual property matters in Pakistan, South East Asia, Arabian Gulf, Middle East & Africa



UNITED TRADEMARK & PATENT SERVICES

International Intellectual Property Attorneys

Trademark, Patent, Design, Copyright, Domain name registration, litigation & enforcement services

Regional Head Office:

Suites 401-402, Al-Hawai Tower, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai, UAE

Tel : +971-4-343 754 Fax: +971-4-343 7546

Email: Dubai@unitedtm.com

Email: UnitedTrademark@unitedtm.com

Websites: www.utmps.com and www.unitedip.com

REGISTRATIONS IN SOUTH & EAST ASIA, GULF, MIDDLE EAST, AND AFRICA



ARIPO

Tel : +255-222862900
Email: Tanzania@UnitedTm.com



EGYPT

Abou El Feda Building
3 Abou El Feda Street, Zamalek,
Cairo-Egypt
Tel : +20-0227367393
Email: Egypt@unitedtm.com



JORDAN

Suite 7, 2nd Floor, Chicago
Building, Al Abdali,
Jordan
Tel : +962-6-5683088
Email: Jordan@unitedtm.com



LEBANON

6th Floor, Burj Al-Ghazal Bldg.
Tabaris, Beirut,
Lebanon
Tel : +961-1-21 5373
Email: Lebanon@unitedtm.com



MOROCCO

58, Rue Ibn Batouta,
PPT. No. 4, 1 er Estage,
Casablanca, Morocco
Tel : +212-522206096
Email: Morocco@unitedtm.com



OAPI

Tel : +971-4-3437 544
Email: Dubai@UnitedTm.com



OMAN

Suite No. 702, 7th Floor, Oman
Commercial Centre, Ruwi,
Muscat
Tel : +968-24-787555, 704788
Email: Oman@unitedtm.com



PAKISTAN

85-The Mall Road,
Mall Plaza Building,
Lahore-54000 Pakistan
Tel : +92-42-36285581-4
Unitedtrademark@UnitedTm.com



QATAR

Villa # 40, Al Amir Street
Al Mirgap Area, Doha,
Qatar
Tel : +974-44443083, 44443093
Email: Qatar@unitedtm.com



SAUDI ARABIA

30th Street-Olaya,
Riyadh 11444
Saudi Arabia
Tel : +966 -11- 4616157
Email: SaudiArabia@unitedtm.com



SHARJAH

Suite 203, Al Buhairah Building
Buhairah Corniche,
Sharjah, UAE
Tel : +971-6-5722742
Email: UAE@unitedtm.com



SRI LANKA

105, Hunupitiya Lake Road
Colombo 02,
Sri Lanka
Tel : +94-11-4322790-1
Email: SriLanka@unitedtm.com



SUDAN

Flat No.1, 3rd F, Al Hurriya St.
Shaik Al Deen Bro. Bldg.
Sudan
Tel : +249-183-740634
Email: Sudan@unitedtm.com



TANZANIA

Shauri Moyo Area,
Pugu Road Dar-Es-Salaam,
Tanzania
Tel : +255-222862900
Email: Tanzania@unitedtm.com



YEMEN

6th Floor, Ideal Clinic Building
Hadda Street, Sana'a,
Yemen
Tel : +967-1819642
Email: Yemen@unitedtm.com

Special Registration Options and Discounts

AIPLA Members... Invite a Colleague to Join and Register! Recruit More... Save More!

Take a look at the benefits of recruiting a new member:

- Reduction of your 2026 Spring Meeting registration fee in increments of \$50 for each Regular (in practice more than five years), or International Affiliate member you recruit and \$25 for each Junior member you recruit. There is no limit to the discount you can earn.
- An invitation to attend the New Member/First-Time Attendee Reception, Wednesday, May 13, 6:00 - 7:00 PM.

To recruit new members, tell them about the special benefits of joining now:

- They can register for the Spring Meeting at the member rate instead of the non-member rate—a savings of hundreds!
- Each new member who registers for the Spring Meeting will receive a special invitation emailed to them to attend the New Member/First-Time Attendee Reception.
- Access the Special Membership Application from the Spring Meeting homepage

After the newly recruited member has completed the membership application form(s):

- Sign on the Recruiter line.
- Important: Include the Membership Application form(s) with your 2026 Spring Meeting Registration Form to ensure proper credit.
- Email both to membership@aipla.org, or mail both to AIPLA Headquarters, 1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22202
- If you are a first-time AIPLA meeting attendee, be sure to indicate it on the registration form.

Corporate In-House Counsel — Attending Your First AIPLA Meeting? Please, be Our Guest...

AIPLA has a special offer to encourage in-house corporate counsel to attend an AIPLA major meeting to see first-hand the outstanding CLE programs we provide.

For individuals who have never attended an AIPLA stated meeting who are also corporate in-house counsel, AIPLA will waive the registration fee. Tickets to the events are not included in this registration. You will need to pay for those events separately. This waiver of fees is available for one stated meeting only.

To take advantage of this one-time offer, simply complete the registration form and email it to us at membership@aipla.org. Once AIPLA has verified that this is your first major meeting and that you meet the in-house corporate counsel criteria, you will receive a registration confirmation. Our hope is that you enjoy your experience at your first AIPLA meeting and that you will join us again for future programs and become more actively involved with the work of the Association, especially through involvement with the Committees.

If you qualify for this special offer, please select the box listed as “first-time corporate in-house counsel” on the registration form.

Group Discounts

AIPLA is pleased to announce the introduction of a new, special registration option for law firms and corporations. In an effort to create opportunities for multiple IP practitioners from a single organization to attend the meeting, AIPLA is offering one complimentary registration for the 2026 Spring Meeting for every three [3], fully-paid registrations.

Register 3-Get 1 FREE

Your complimentary registration may be used for a colleague, client, or other as you determine is most valuable.

A paper registration must be downloaded from the website and submitted for the complimentary registration by email to membership@aipla.org. Please note in the email the names of the three paid registrants for confirmation.

Only fully paid registrations can be applied toward the multi-registration offer. The following exclusions apply:

- This offer is not valid for meeting exhibitors.
- Guest registrations do not apply toward the total number of paid registrations.
- First-time corporate attendees and Corporate Subscription registrations do not apply toward the total number of paid registrations.



Registration and Cancellation Information

1. Registration:

Register by April 29, 2026 to be included on the participation list. On-site registrations will be accepted; however, please be prepared to pay by check, cash or credit card. We DO NOT invoice for any fees. Attendees must register for the meeting if they wish to register for or attend social events. Badges are required at all meetings and social events.

2. Submitting Your Registration:

ONLINE: You should receive an email confirmation shortly after you complete the process. Please keep this confirmation for your records. www.aipla.org

EMAIL: Completed registration forms, including payment information, can be sent to membership@aipla.org.

MAIL: Mail registrations to:

AIPLA

1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

International Registrations:

If you submit a registration via fax with credit card payment, do not send a “confirmation copy” via mail as it may be processed twice, and you may be billed twice. If you are paying by check, please mail your registration. You may fax 703-415-0786 a copy of your check and registration to account for possible foreign mail delay. **Payment for meeting registration must be in US currency.**

3. Spouses or Accompanying Guests Must Register.

Guests over 18 pay a guest fee of \$150. There are many opportunities for your spouse or guest to join you throughout the meeting, as well as network with and get to know the other spouses and guests attending the meeting. The Guest fees include a guest badge and access to all unticketed events, including: the continental breakfasts, luncheon receptions and morning and afternoon breaks.

This fee is intended for spouses and guests attending the Spring Meeting who are not eligible for AIPLA membership or who would not otherwise attend the meeting for CLE purposes. This guest fee is not available in lieu of paying the registration fee for vendors requesting more than the allotted number of exhibitor badges.

4. Purchasing Event Tickets On-Site:

Events may sell out. Tickets on-site are sold on an “as available” basis. Tickets will be collected at all

food functions and the spouse/guest tours.

If you do not arrive at the event within the first 30 minutes of the start time of the event, you are not guaranteed a seat.

5. Returned Check and Credit Card Fees:

Registrations received that result in a returned check or contain incomplete credit card information, including omitted signature, omitted expiration date, wrong number sequences, etc., will be charged a \$35 fee for each instance.

6. Cancellation:

Cancel by March 28, 2026 and receive a refund less a \$50 processing fee. Cancel between March 29, 2026 and April 29, 2026 and receive a refund less a \$250 processing fee. No refunds issued after close of business April 29, 2026. Cancellations must be made in writing. Please mail, email, or fax — 703-415-0786 — your cancellation in writing to AIPLA, 1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22202. Any refunds will be processed after the meeting.

CAUTION: If you duplicate your registration with AIPLA, it is your responsibility to notify AIPLA in writing after the meeting and request a refund. No refunds will be given at the meeting site.

7. Registration Transfer:

Registrants may transfer their registration based on the following:

- Members may transfer their registration to other members.
- Non-members may transfer their registration to other non-members.
- A transfer from a member to a non-member will incur an additional fee equal to the difference in registration rates.

8. Photographs and Video:

There will be photographs and video taken throughout AIPLA's 2026 Spring Meeting that will be used in AIPLA print and electronic publications, including AIPLA's website.

9. Attendee List: As part of registering for the meeting, we provide sponsors and exhibitors a list of attendees. If you do not want your name or information listed, it is incumbent on you to change your sharing settings in the Meeting app or contact AIPLA to let us know. We do not rent or sell our attendee list to third parties. It is only provided to our exhibitors and sponsors.

AIPLA 2026 Spring Meeting Registration

Wednesday, May 13 to Friday, May 15, 2026 • Fairmont San Francisco • San Francisco, CA

Ways to register:



(1) Register Online:
Go to www.aipla.org
Credit Card Payment Only



(2) Fax: 703-415-0786
(Faxed registrations MUST be accompanied by credit card information.)



(3) Mail or eMail:
AIPLA
1400 Crystal Drive, • Suite 600 • Arlington, Virginia 22202
meetings@aipla.org

First name: _____ Last name: _____
 Name for Badge: _____
 Firm/Company: _____
 Mailing Address: _____ City/State/Zip Code: _____
 Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____
 (Spouse/Guest) Name: _____

I. AIPLA 2026 Spring Meeting Registration Rates

**See AIPLA's Cancellation Policy for Important Dates and Information	Pre-registration deadline until 3/2/26	Early registration deadline until 4/15/26	Standard/Onsite after 4/15/26
AIPLA Member - Full Meeting	\$1095	\$1245	\$1495
AIPLA Member - Day Rate fee per day. Please indicate preferred day. <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday	\$775 (one day only)	\$875 (one day only)	\$975 (one day only)
Government Employee/AIPLA Academic Member	\$145	\$145	\$195
AIPLA Junior Member	\$685	\$785	\$885
AIPLA Student Member	\$55	\$55	\$55
AIPLA Solo/Corporate Practitioner Member	\$995	\$1095	\$1195
First-Time Corporate In-House Counsel (Corporate In-House Practitioners Only)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Non-Member* - Full Meeting	\$1695	\$1845	\$1995
Non-Member - Day Rate fee per day. Please indicate preferred day. <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday	\$1250 (one day only)	\$1350 (one day only)	\$1450 (one day only)
Spouse/Guest Fee (For guests over 18)	\$150 x # _____	\$150 x # _____	\$150 x # _____
Advanced Chemical & Biotech Patent Institute \$295 (members) \$495 (non members) <i>(this is the price if you register for both Advanced Chem and Spring Meeting)</i>			
			Registration Subtotal \$

II. AIPLA 2026 Spring Meeting Social and Networking Events

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Corporate Practice Breakfast (Corporate In-House Practitioners Only)	\$0 x # _____	
Luncheon	\$83 x # _____	
New Member/First-Time Attendee Reception	\$0 x # _____	
Opening Night Reception	\$99 x # _____	

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Women in IP Law Breakfast	\$0 x # _____	
Luncheon	\$84 x # _____	
Diversity in IP Law Reception	\$0 x # _____	
Dinner and Celebration	\$175 x # _____	

Social and Networking Events Subtotal \$

Total \$

Yes, I would like to be contacted about participating as a mentor or mentee (circle one) during 2026 Spring Meeting. Email me _____

*To get the member rate, please submit a membership application and payment with this registration. To obtain a membership application, please visit our website at www.aipla.org.

Is this the first time attending an AIPLA stated meeting?

IMPORTANT! Please indicate food restrictions/special needs requests

Method of payment

check enclosed (make checks payable to AIPLA)
 credit card (please circle one - AMEX, MC, or VISA)
 card number _____ exp. date _____
 name on card _____
 signature _____



2026 Spring Meeting Sponsors

GOLD



Knobbe Martens

SILVER



BRONZE



CRYSTAL



PEARL



Exhibitors



AIPLA

American Intellectual Property Law Association

1400 Crystal Drive • Suite 600 • Arlington, Virginia 22202

AIPLA 2026 Spring Meeting *May 13-15, 2026*

Upcoming AIPLA Meetings!



2026 Annual Meeting
October 29 to 31, 2026
Westin DC Downtown
Washington, DC



2027 Spring Meeting
May 6 to 8, 2027
Hyatt Regency Denver at the
Convention Center
Denver, CO