

November 2, 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Room 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6275

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Room 335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Victoria A. Espinel for
United States Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Sessions:

The American Intellectual Property Law Association (“AIPLA”) is pleased to submit this letter supporting President Obama’s nomination of Victoria A. Espinel to be this nation’s first United States Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator. AIPLA urges that the Judiciary Committee give this nomination expedited consideration in view of the many pressing international issues concerning intellectual property enforcement that are currently pending.

The American Intellectual Property Law Association is a national bar association of approximately 16,000 members engaged in private and corporate practice, in government service, and in academia. AIPLA represents a wide and diverse spectrum of individuals, companies, and institutions involved directly or indirectly in the practice of various fields of law affecting intellectual property. Our members represent both owners and users of intellectual property, and they have a keen interest in a strong and efficient intellectual property system.

Victoria Espinel has an impressive and substantive background in the area of intellectual property, which will serve her well in this new position. She was the first ever Assistant United States Trade Representative for Intellectual Property and Innovation, a position which gave her significant experience with various domestic and international governmental bodies as the chief trade negotiator on intellectual property issues. She also served as Deputy Assistant USTR for Intellectual Property and Associate General Counsel for that office. In addition, her experience includes law firm work representing private clients and advising several Congressional Committees on intellectual property issues. Clearly, this impressive skill set will serve her well in satisfying the demanding requirements of this Office.

In addition, we feel it is imperative that this Office's work begins as soon as possible. The Pro-IP Act, which created this position, was enacted over a year ago, and critical time has been lost in the challenge of taking a more comprehensive approach to IP enforcement issues.

We believe Ms. Espinel is well suited to serve as United States Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, and we urge you to give her nomination prompt consideration.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of these views.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan J. Kasper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a distinct "K".

Alan J. Kasper
President