



Antony Taubman

Antony Taubman has served since 2009 as Director of the WTO's Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division, with responsibility for a wide range of WTO activities in these fields including coordination on the intersections between public health, trade policy and the intellectual property system, with a particular focus on the international response to the COVID-19 pandemic. From 2002 to 2009, he directed the Global Intellectual Property Issues Division of WIPO (including the Traditional Knowledge Division and Life Sciences Program), covering IP and genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore, the life sciences, and related global issues including public health and climate, the environment, climate change, human rights, food security, bioethics and indigenous issues. An earlier appointment at WIPO covered development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, redesign of the program and budget, and policy development.

A diplomatic career with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) concluded with service as Director, International Intellectual Property, engaged in multilateral and bilateral negotiations on IP issues, domestic policy development, regional cooperation, and TRIPS dispute settlement. Earlier service included disarmament policy and participation in the negotiations on the Chemical Weapons Convention, and postings to the Australian Embassy in Tehran as Deputy Head of Mission, and to the Hague as Alternate Representative to the Preparatory Commission for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Chair of the Expert Group on Confidentiality as a component of the system for verification of disarmament commitments.

In 2001 he joined the Australian Centre for Intellectual Property in Agriculture and the College of Law at the Australian National University, teaching and researching on international IP law. He has held postgraduate teaching appointments at several law schools including at the University of Melbourne, American University, the Queensland University of Technology and the University of Edinburgh, and contributes to many other educational and training programs. In 2008, the Rockefeller Foundation awarded him a Bellagio residential fellowship for his work on TRIPS and public policy issues. He has authored numerous publications on the TRIPS Agreement and international IP law and policy, and cognate policy fields such as public health, competition policy and the digital economy.

A registered patent attorney, he worked in private practice in the law of patents, trademarks and designs in Melbourne in the 1980s. His tertiary education has included computer science, mathematics, engineering, classical languages, philosophy, international relations, law and theology; he taught ancient Greek philosophy at Melbourne University.