

## **Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications**

### **Twenty-Fifth Session**

**Geneva, March 28 to April 1, 2011**

#### **ACCREDITATION OF A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION**

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The Annex to this document contains information on a non-governmental organization which has requested to be granted observer status in sessions of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), according to the SCT's Rules of Procedure (document SCT/1/2, paragraph 6).

2. *The SCT is invited to approve the representation in sessions of the Committee of the non-governmental organization referred to in the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS REQUESTED REPRESENTATION AS  
OBSERVER IN SESSIONS OF THE SCT

American Bar Association (ABA)

With nearly 400,000 members, the American Bar Association (ABA) is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law. The ABA was founded on August 21, 1878, and its membership includes lawyers, law students, and associate members which include court administrators, government employees, legal assistants, law clerks, public interest group members, international lawyers, and others with an interest in the law.

Founded in 1894 as the first substantive section of the ABA, the 25,000-member ABA Section of Intellectual Property Law provides the highest quality information, analysis and practice tools to intellectual property lawyers, and serves as the thoughtful source of information and commentary for policy makers as they consider legislation affecting the law and regulations in intellectual property matters. The section is respected and known as the premier resource for knowledge in this increasingly important and complex area of law.

Main aims and objectives of the Organization

- Setting of academic standards for law schools;
- Formulating model ethical codes related to the legal profession;
- Providing benefits, programs and services which promote members' professional growth and quality of life;
- Promoting the highest quality legal education; promoting competence, ethical conduct and professionalism;
- Promoting *pro bono* and public service by the legal profession;
- Eliminating bias and enhance diversity;
- Promoting full and equal participation in the association, our profession, and the justice system by all persons;
- Eliminating bias in the legal profession and the justice system;
- Advancing the rule of law;
- Increasing public understanding of and respect for the rule of law, the legal process, and the role of the legal profession at home and throughout the world;
- Working for just laws, including human rights, and a fair legal process;
- Assuring meaningful access to justice for all persons; preserving the independence of the legal profession and the judiciary.

Countries in which the Organization is primarily active

United States of America. However, ABA has members from other countries.

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Organization Representative

Ms. Marylee Jenkins, Chairperson, Section of Intellectual Property Law.

[End of Annex and of document]