



# IP Law Section

*of* The State Bar of Georgia

SM

NOVEMBER 2024

## Section Officers

<u>Chair</u> <b>Chittam Thakore</b>	<u>Immediate Past Chair</u> <b>Chris Lightner</b>
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<u>Community Outreach</u> <b>Open</b>
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<u>In-House</u> <b>Joe Staley, Co-Chair</b> <b>Justin Ward, Co-Chair</b>
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<u>Trade Secret</u> <b>Michael Cicero, Co-Chair</b> <b>Neal Weinrich, Co-Chair</b>
<u>IP Liaison</u> <b>Michael Mehrman, Chair</b>
<u>YLD Committee</u> <b>Tayah Woodard, Co-Chair</b>

## Chair's Message

### ***Message from IP Section Chittam Thakore***



This bar year is turning out to be an exciting one for the IP Section, and, as Section Chair, I'm honored to lead the effort to bring quality programs to our members. The IP Section Executive Committee is hard at work putting together informative CLE programs and social events to promote professional excellence and foster camaraderie. The Executive Committee is particularly focused this year on laying the groundwork necessary to bring back a larger section-wide event in the 2025-26 Bar year akin to the programming we used to have way back in 2019! We encourage all of you to re-engage or further engage as notices of upcoming programs are circulated.

You'll also be invited to several IP Section social events (both IP Section wide events and committee specific ones) throughout the Bar year. We held the first of our socials on October 23rd at Ladybird Grove & Mess Hall. The weather, venue, and turnout couldn't have been better! If you're interested and not yet involved in an IP Section committee, please reach out to me directly. I can personally attest to the value that being active in the committees and programming imparts. My active participation in an IP Section committee is what jump started my involvement with the Section and that involvement has enriched me both personally and professionally. I hope that our IP Section will serve as a valuable resource for each of you, too!

Finally, I thank each of you who have unflaggingly supported and served this Section; we, as your leaders and Executive Board, could not do half of what we do each year without your efforts! To the tireless dedicated ones—your efforts are not unnoticed. To those looking for a more meaningful involvement—we stand ready to welcome you! Why wait—jump on in!

Here's to another productive year,  
Chittam U. Thakore

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## Trade Secrets Committee Holds CLE Session Regarding FTC Rule Banning Restrictive Covenants



(Left to right) Susan Radcliffe, General Counsel with Americas at Kemira; William Morris, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer of The Wencor Group; Benjamin Fink, partner at Berman Fink Van Horn, P.C.; Neal Weinrich, partner at Berman Fink Van Horn, P.C. and IP Section Trade Secrets Committee Co-Chair.

On June 26, 2024, the Trade Secrets Committee of the Georgia Bar Intellectual Property Law Section conducted a Continuing Legal Education seminar titled “The FTC’s Noncompete Rule and its Impact on Protecting Trade Secrets.” The panel comprised Benjamin Fink and Neal Weinrich (Trade Secrets Committee Vice Chair), both partners at Berman Fink Van Horn, P.C.; William Morris, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Office of The Wencor Group; and Susan Radcliffe, General Counsel – Americas at Kemira.

This program spurred almost 100 people to register, considering both live and virtual attendees together.

Accompanied by their PowerPoint slides, Neal and Ben discussed the FTC rule, its exceptions, and the current state of litigation challenging the FTC’s enforcement of the rule. The presentation paused at various times to allow Mr. Morris and Ms. Radcliffe to provide their in-house perspectives concerning various aspects of the FTC rule. Ben finished the presentation by discussing the impact of various state laws on enforcement of restrictive covenants, and what organizations can do right now to prepare for September 4, 2024, when the FTC rule will take effect barring injunctive relief in one or more of the pending litigations.

Members of the in-person audience generated lively discussions with the panelists during the concluding question-and-answer session.

## 146th INTA Annual Meeting Takes Place in Atlanta



INTA Annual Meeting Logo

The 146th Annual Meeting of the International Trademark Association (INTA) took place at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta on May 18-22, 2024. The Meeting had over 9,500 registrants from 135 countries and offered brand professionals from across industries a wide variety of legal and business programming and professional development activities, including excursions throughout the city of Atlanta.



Fireside Chat with USPTO Deputy Director Derrick Brent.  
(Left to Right) Jenny Simmons, Associate Senior Director, Government Affairs, INTA (moderator); Derrick Brent.

## Section Members Volunteer at PAWS Atlanta



IP Section Members Volunteer at PAWS Atlanta

In March, 18 members of the IP Section of the Georgia Bar volunteered at PAWS Atlanta. PAWS Atlanta is Georgia's oldest no-kill animal shelter having started in 1966 as the DeKalb Humane Society. The shelter has found homes for more than 49,000 dogs and cats in the past almost 60 years.

Section members assisted the PAWS Development Team with their St. Pittie's Day campaign and picked up branches and sticks on the walking trail and throughout the shelter. This allowed the PAWS volunteers and staff to walk the dogs safely while they get the exercise and stimulation they need.

As a pay-off for the volunteers' hard work, they had the opportunity to socialize with the dogs and cats and help get ready to meet potential adopters.

Check out PAWS Atlanta here . . .

<https://www.pawsatlanta.org/>

Athlete Empowerment Through NIL Panel Discussion at INTA. (Left to right) Jim Cavale, Founder and Chairman, Athletes.org; Keith Marshall, Co-Founder and CEO, The Players' Lounge and former UGA running back; Flau'jae Johnson, rapper and LSU basketball player; Donald Woodard, partner in Atlanta firm Carter and Woodard; Bruce Siegal, Of Counsel in Atlanta office of Greenspoon Marder LLP (moderator).