



**AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ASSOCIATION**  
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July 22, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Herbert C. Hoover Building  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Hilary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
Harry S. Truman Building  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Locke and Secretary Clinton:

The American Intellectual 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 patent and trademark law, as well as other 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 patent system

On December 7, 2007, the United States Senate passed a Resolution of Advice and Consent to the ratification of the Patent Law Treaty as well as to ratification of the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs.

We understand both the Treaty and the Agreement will not go into effect in the United States until the United States deposits its Instruments of Ratification with the World Intellectual Property Association (WIPO) and this will not happen until implementing legislation has been enacted.

AIPLA is of the view that the Patent Law Treaty will have numerous benefits for our members in their filing and prosecuting of patent applications in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, as well as in the filing of International Applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty submitted to United States Receiving Office.

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Likewise, the AIPLA believes that the implementation of the Geneva Act in the United States will benefit persons seeking to obtain protection for their design registrations.

Accordingly, AIPLA encourages the Administration to move forward in the submission of such implementing legislation to Congress to ensure that the Patent Law Treaty as well as the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement enters into fourth the United States as soon as practical.

Warm regards,

Q. Todd Dickinson  
Executive Director

cc: Teresa Stanek Rea  
Alan J. Kasper  
Samson Helfgott  
The Honorable John J. Doll