

## About the IPC

The Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC) is the voice for intellectual property (IP) at ICANN. The IPC is part of ICANN's Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), a multistakeholder organization that is uniquely responsible for the development of policy governing generic top-level domains (gTLDs).

We represent the views and interests of IP owners worldwide. We are primarily focused on trademark, copyright and related intellectual property rights, and their effect on and interaction with the domain name system (DNS). The IPC works to ensure that these views, including minority views, are reflected in the recommendations that the GNSO Council makes to the ICANN Board.

Additionally, we represent the interests and concerns of consumers who depend on strong intellectual property protections as an essential element of consumer protection. Our members include individuals, companies, law firms and intellectual property organizations from around the world.

The IPC has been at the forefront of global advocacy efforts for transparency and accountability in the DNS, in support of protection and enforcement of trademark and copyright rights online. The IPC has represented the interests of IP owners during the planning, implementation and rollout of ICANN's New gTLD Program; over 1,000 new gTLDs are now part of the domain name landscape, and with a "next round" currently in policy development, our mission is to keep IP owners' interests at the forefront of these latest developments.

## What We Do

- Participate with other stakeholders in Working Groups, the lifeblood of ICANN, to develop policy recommendations
- Provide public comments on proposed ICANN policies and activities affecting IP rights
- Work with other ICANN stakeholders to understand and promote common interests
- Meet regularly by remote participation and over email to develop policy positions and advocacy points in support of intellectual property interests
- Participate in the ICANN public meetings each year
- Elect two Councilors to represent worldwide IP interests on the GNSO Council
- Select a representative to the ICANN Nominating Committee, which appoints members of the Board of Directors and other ICANN organizations

## How to Join

**IPC welcomes applications from organizations and individuals committed to advocacy for and development of IP rights.**

**For more information and to apply:**  
[www.ipconstituency.org/join-the-ipc/](http://www.ipconstituency.org/join-the-ipc/)

### Categories of IPC members:



Companies, firms and organizations with an interest in IP protection



Individuals with an interest in IP protection



Local, state or national IP organizations



International IP organizations

## IPC Leadership



**Heather Forrest,**  
President  
*(Asia Pacific)*



**Dean Marks,**  
Vice President  
*(North America)*



**Damon Ashcraft,**  
Treasurer  
*(North America)*



**Susan Payne,**  
Secretary  
*(Europe)*



**Flip Petillion,**  
GNSO Council  
*(Europe)*



**John McElwaine,**  
GNSO Council  
*(North America)*



**Brian Scarpelli,**  
Participation Coordinator  
*(North America)*

## President's Note

Last year, in 2019, the IPC celebrated an important milestone: twenty years since the ICANN Bylaws recognized a constituency to represent “trademark, other intellectual property and anti-counterfeiting interests” in the DNS. 2020 marks not only a new year but a new decade for the IPC – a time of renewal, a time of change, a time of respecting our roots while forging new paths in new times. Our mission has not changed, nor has its importance waned.

2020 promises to be an impactful year for ICANN and the DNS, with several major policy development processes reaching significant milestones. The Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) formed to respond to changing data privacy laws in Europe and elsewhere anticipates winding up Phase 2 of its work, affecting how IP owners access critical WHOIS/RDS data in IP rights enforcement. The New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP will wind up more than three years of review of the New gTLD Applicant Guidebook to present the policy recommendations to govern future new gTLD applications. The Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP anticipates moving ahead to Phase 2 of its work, evaluating the UDRP which, like the IPC, celebrated its own highly successful 20-year milestone last year.

With so much at stake for IP interests, there has never been a better time to get involved in the IPC. Be heard, hold the pen, be part of the development and implementation of new policy affecting IP rights in the DNS. We sincerely welcome you to join us in the effort to preserve IP and consumer rights online at this critical time!

**Heather Forrest**  
*IPC President*

## Key IPC Issues

- GDPR and WHOIS/registration directory services. Working to ensure continued access to and accuracy of WHOIS/registration information. Translation and transliteration of WHOIS information, Privacy and Proxy Service Accreditation.
- Reviewing ICANN's New gTLD Program and developing policy to govern future new gTLD releases.
- Reviewing the Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) for the New gTLD Program and for “legacy” gTLDs, including the Uniform Rapid Suspension System (URS), the Trademark Clearinghouse (TMCH) and the Uniform Domain-Name Dispute-Resolution Policy (UDRP). Safeguarding the continued effectiveness of the UDRP.
- Continuing efforts to enhance ICANN Accountability.
- Issues related to geographical indications and other geographic terms within domain names.
- Infringement and other abuses and concerns related to legacy and new gTLDs, both overall and with specific registries.
- Strong, consistent enforcement of ICANN's contracts with registries and registrars, especially new provisions regarding the protection of intellectual property rights.

### About ICANN

ICANN's mission is to help ensure a stable, secure and unified global Internet. To reach another person on the Internet, you have to type an address into your computer — a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN helps coordinate and support these unique identifiers across the world. ICANN was formed in 1998 as a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation and a community with participants from all over the world. ICANN and its community help keep the Internet secure, stable and interoperable.

### About the GNSO

The Generic Names Supporting Organization develops (and over time, recommends changes to) policies for gTLDs (e.g., .com, .org, .biz and new gTLDs created post-2012 including .brands, .geos and .generics). The GNSO strives to keep gTLDs operating in a fair, orderly fashion across one global Internet, while promoting innovation and competition.