

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 develops policy for generic top-level domains (gTLDs).

We represent the views and interests of owners of intellectual property 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 intellectual property 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.

What We Do

- Participate in the public ICANN public meetings each year
- Elect two Councilors to the GNSO Council
- 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
- Select a representative to the ICANN Nominating Committee, which appoints members of the Board of Directors and other ICANN organizations

How to Join



The 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/

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



Brian Winterfeldt
President



Vicky Sheckler
Vice President



Kiran Malancharuvil
Secretary



John McElwaine
Treasurer



Heather Forrest
Chair, GNSO Council



Paul McGrady
GNSO Councillor



Brian Scarpelli
Participation Coordinator

President's Note

The issues that face the IPC in the coming year are of critical importance as we do our part to ensure that intellectual property rights and consumer interests are preserved and protected on the Internet, and are appropriately balanced with legitimate privacy and Internet infrastructure concerns.

Please take a moment to review the IPC key issues listed here. I encourage those who are interested in the preservation of IP and consumer rights online to become a member and get involved. With your help, we can strengthen the singular voice of IP owners and consumer advocates, and make an impact on these issues, and more. Thank you for your interest in the IPC!

- Brian Winterfeldt
IPC President

Key IPC Issues

- GDPR and WHOIS/registration directory services. Ensuring continued access to and accuracy of WHOIS/registration information. Translation and transliteration of WHOIS information, Privacy and Proxy Service Accreditation, "Next Generation" Registry Directory Service Policy Development Process.
- Reviews of ICANN's New gTLD Program, including competition, consumer trust and consumer choice
- Reviews of 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)
- Continuing efforts to enhance ICANN Accountability
- Issues related to geographical indications and other geographic terms
- Infringement and other abuses and concerns related to the New gTLD Program, both overall and with specific registries and new gTLDs.
- 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 (GNSO) formulates (and over time, recommends changes to) policies for gTLDs (e.g., .com, .org, .biz). The GNSO strives to keep gTLDs operating in a fair, orderly fashion across one global Internet, while promoting innovation and competition.