

- ❖ Ensuring tours of the company premises do not expose outsiders to valuable processes or information;
- ❖ Using check-out lists when valuable equipment or information is removed from its normal location;
- ❖ Monitoring employees' use of e-mail and the Internet to ensure confidential information is not being disseminated;
- ❖ Using encryption technology and antivirus protection programs to protect information stored on computers;
- ❖ Educate employees on trade secrets and protection of trade secrets;
- ❖ Ensuring information retained on computers is available only on company networks so that access can be easily tracked.

Most companies will not need to implement all of the measures described above. Courts do not require absolute secrecy or that extreme measure be taken to protect information. Rather, reasonable measures will be sufficient to protect the status of information as trade secrets.

Contractual Protection

- ❖ Another method of protecting trade secrets is by contract, namely, requiring those with access to the information to agree in writing not to disclose the information to other or use it to the owner's detriment.
- ❖ Similarly, in licensing arrangements, trade secret owners should ensure the license agreements contain sufficient protection for trade secret information.
- ❖ Employers should use noncompetition agreements to ensure former employees do not use material gained on the job to later compete against the employer.
- ❖ With the advent of the Internet and the increased ease of electronic communications, employers have become concerned about the loss of trade secrets through dissemination over the Internet.
- ❖ It has been held that "*once a trade secret is posted on the Internet, it is effectively part of the public domain, impossible to retrieve*".

Contractual Protection

Companies can also rely on other complementary methods of protection to safeguard trade secrets. Any material that qualifies for copyright protection should be protected by registration, or at a minimum, by ensuring a copyright notice is placed on the material or document to afford notice to other of the owner's right and internet in the material.

UNFAIR COMPETITION

INTRODUCTION:

The law of unfair competition is based upon the notion that individuals should be protected from deceptive (looking down) and improper conduct in the marketplace. The law of unfair competition is found in case law, in state statutes prohibiting unfair business practices, in specific federal statutes, and in regulations promulgated by the FTC (Federal Trade Commission), the federal regulatory agency charged with protecting consumers from unfair or deceptive acts and practices.

The law of unfair competition continues to evolve as new methods of conducting business arise, such as electronic offers and sales through telemarketing, television infomercials, and the Internet. There are a number of theories and actions that can be used by injured parties to protect against unfair competition. In many instances, actions for unfair competition will be combined with other actions (such as those alleging trademark, copyright, or patent infringement) to provide a plaintiff a wide array of possible remedies.

For Example: a designer of scarves imprinted with fanciful designs may decide against applying for a design patent due to the expense involved and the short life cycle of fashion products. Protection against copying of the design may thus be available under the umbrella of unfair competition rather than under design patent law.

Section 43 of the Lanham Act (15 U.S.C § 1125) provides a federal cause of action to protect consumers against unfair competitive business practices. Moreover, section 43(a) protects unregistered marks and names, such as those that do not qualify for federal trademark registration because they are descriptive or perhaps used only in intrastate commerce.

The most common types of unfair competition are discussed more fully in this chapter but can be briefly summarized as follows:

- Passing off (or palming off), “Passing off” occurs when one party attempts to pass off or sell his or her goods or services as those of another.
- Misappropriation
- Right of Publicity
- False advertising
- Dilution, Either tarnishing another’s mark or causing it to lose its distinctiveness through “blurring” is actionable as dilution
- Infringement of trade dress, adopting the overall concept of another’s distinctive packaging or product image, generally called its “trade dress”, so as to deceive consumers is an infringement of trade dress.

Generally, injured parties notify the wrongdoer prior to initiating litigation.

MISAPPROPRIATION:

- The doctrine of misappropriation first arose in *International News Service V. Associated Press*, 248 U.S. 215 (1918), in which the Supreme Court held that an unauthorized taking of another's property, in that case, news information, that it invested time and money in creating was actionable as misappropriation of property.
- In *INS*, news information originally gathered by the Associated Press relating to World War I was pirated by International News Service and sold to its customers.
- Because the news itself, as factual matter, could not be copyrighted, the plaintiff could not sue for copyright infringement.
- Instead it alleged that its valuable property right had been taken or misappropriated by the defendant.
- The Supreme Court agreed, noting that the defendant was "endeavoring to reap where it has not sown, and is appropriating to itself the harvest of those who have sown." *Id.* At 239-40. Because the defendant was not attempting to convince its subscribers that its news reports were from the plaintiff, an action for passing off would not lie. The defendant was misappropriating rather than misrepresenting.

RIGHT OF PUBLICITY:

- The right of publicity gives individuals, not merely celebrities, the right to control commercial use of their identities or personas.
- The right of publicity protects a commercial interest, the vast majority of cases involve celebrities inasmuch as they can readily show economic harm when their names, photographs, or identities are used to sell products or suggest a sponsorship of merchandise.
- Publicity rights are governed by state law.
- The right of publicity has evolved from the right of privacy, which protected against unreasonable invasions upon another person's solitude and provided remedies for the disclosure of private information.
- The right of publicity allows individuals to protect the marketability of their identities and punishes those who would unjustly enrich themselves by appropriating another's fame for profit-making purposes.
- Unpermitted commercial exploitation of an individual's persona would dilute the value of the persona, making it more difficult for the individual to commercialize his or her identity. Thus, remedies for infringement include injunctions to prevent further exploitation and monetary relief to compensate the individual whose right of publicity has been appropriated (including damages for injury to reputation recovery of the defendant's profits, and punitive damages in extreme cases)

- Courts have articulated a number of reasons for upholding an individual's right to publicity, including the need to protect against confusion that would arise if consumers were led to believe individuals sponsor or approve products when they do not, the need to incentivize performers who provide entertainment and benefit to society and should thus be provided with a protectable proper right in their identities.
- The right of publicity does not apply to non commercial uses; using another's name, likeness, or identity for news reporting, scholarship, or research is permissible.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RIGHT OF PUBLICITY

- As is common with intellectual property rights in today's society, some of the new issues relating to the rights of publicity stem from increasing technological advances.
- Without prior permission one should not appear in the digital technology used movie.
- The International Trademark Association has proposed amending the U.S. Trademark Act to create a federal right of publicity with postmortem rights (although such rights would be limited to some specific period of duration after death).
- *Similarly, names, gestures, and likenesses are unprotectable under copyright law because they are titles or ideas rather than expressions.*
- Thus, in some instances, federal copyright law may control a plaintiff's rights, while in other instances; only the right to publicity will provide protection.
- **California recently passed** the Astaire Celebrity Image Protection Act (Cal.Civ.Code § § 3344-3346) to allow heirs of celebrities to block commercial uses of deceased celebrities' likenesses while allowing a "safe harbor exemption" to artistic uses, such as the digital insertion of President Kennedy's image into the movie Forrest Gump, or uses for news, public affairs, and so forth.

FALSE ADVERTISING:

- In 1943, the federal trademark law, the Lanham Act, was passed.
- Section 43(a) of the act (15 U.S.C. § 1125) prohibited false designations of origin, namely, descriptions or representations tending falsely to describe or represent goods or services.
- It was not an effective vehicle to use when a party made misrepresentations relating to the nature or quality of goods or services.
- Moreover, until the passage of the Lanham Act, Plaintiffs, an element that was often difficult to demonstrate.

- Although the individual states enacted statutes prohibiting false advertising, these statutes varied from state to state and were often ineffective to prohibit false advertising that was national in scope.
- The expansive language of section 43 of the Lanham Act, however, soon began to be used to protect not only against unregistered trademarks but also against nearly all forms of false advertising.
- In 1989 Congress amended the Lanham Act and broadened the scope of section 43 for infringement of trademarks (both registered and unregistered marks) and trade dress, while the other portion of the statute allows the assertion of claims for false advertising and trade libel.

➤ Under section 43(a), whoever uses a false or misleading description or representation of fact or false designation of origin in commercial advertising or promotion or misrepresents the nature, qualities, or geographic origin of his or her or another person's goods, services, or commercial activities is liable to any person likely to be injured by such act (if the act is committed in interstate commerce)

For Example:

- a failure to disclose that advertised prices did not include additional charges;
- a statement that a pregnancy test kit would disclose results in “as fast as ten minutes” when a positive result would appear in ten minutes but a negative results might take thirty minutes;
- a claim that a certain motor oil provided longer life and better engine protection than a competitor's product when that claim could not be substantiated;
- a false claim that automobile antifreeze met an automobile manufacturer's standards;
- covering up a label stating “Made in Taiwan” that appeared on goods

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AGAINST UNFAIR COMPETITION:

- The United States has assumed certain obligations under international agreements in the arena of unfair completion, chiefly under the Paris Convention.
- The Paris Convention seeks to afford citizens of each of the more than 160 member nation's protection against unfair competition and trademark infringement and requires that member nations provide the same level of protection against unfair competition to citizens of other member nations as they do for their own citizens.
- The Paris Convention expressly prohibits acts that create confusion b y any means with a competitor, false allegations that discredit a competitor, and indications that mislead the public in regard to the nature or characteristics of goods.
- Section 44 of the Lanham Act (15 U.S.C§ 1126) implements the Paris Convention and expressly provides that any person whose country of origin is a party to any convention or treaty relating to the repression of unfair competition, to which the United States is also a party, is entitled to effective protection against unfair completion.

UNIT-5

NEW DEVELOPMENTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

NEW DEVELOPMENT IN TRADE MARKS LAW:

The Internet:

- ❖ Trademark owners throughout the world are struggling with new issues presented by increased electronic communication, primarily that occurring through the Internet.
- ❖ The Internet derives from a network set up in the 1970s by the Department of Defense to connect military and research sites that could continue to communicate even in the event of nuclear attack.
- ❖ In the 1980s, the National Science Foundation expanded on the system, and its first significant users were government agencies and universities.
- ❖ In the early 1990s, however, it became apparent that the system could provide a global communication network, allowing people from all over the world to talk with each other; send written messages, pictures, and text to each other; and establish web pages to advertise their wares and provide information to their customers.

Assignment of Domain Names:

- A company's presence on the internet begins with its address or domain name not only serves as a locator for a company but also functions as a designation of origin and a symbol of goodwill---a trademark.
- There are two portions to a domain name: the generic top-level domain, which is the portion of the name to the right of a period (such as .gov or .com) and the secondary level domain, which is the portion of the name to the left of a period (such as "kraft" in Kraft.com").
- Disputes frequently arise between owners of registered mark and owners of domain names whose domain names similar or identical to the registered marks.

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers [ICANN]:

- To help resolve the problems in the domain names registration and use process
- The government created the ICANN
- It is a nonprofit corporation
- It is governed by a board of directors elected in part by various members of the Internet community.

- ICANN are authorized to register domain names ending with .com, .org and .net
- Registrations usually last one year, at which time they can be removed or will expire.
- Registration requires a representation that the person seeing to register the name is not doing so for an unlawful purpose and does not know of any infringement
- ICANN recently added seven new top-level domains, including .biz and .info

PROTECTING A DOMAIN NAME:

- People register well-known marks as domain names to prey on consumer confusion by misusing the domain name to divert customers from the legitimate mark owner's site. This practice is commonly called cybersquatting.
- There are three approaches for against cybersquatter:
 - ✓ An action can be brought under the Federal Trademark dilution Act
 - ✓ A civil suit can be instituted under the recent Anticybersquatting consumer protection Act, or
 - ✓ An arbitration proceeding can be instituted through ICANN's disputes resolutions process
- Cybersquatter and the dilution doctrine: Federal trademark dilution Act (15 U.S.C § 1125 (C))
- Cybersquatters and Anticybersquatting consumer protection Act (15 U.S.C § 1125 (d))
[ACPA: Anticybersquatting consumer Protection Act]
 - ✓ To prevail in a civil action under ACPA, a plaintiff must prove three things:
 1. The plaintiff's mark is a distinctive or famous mark deserving of protection
 2. The alleged cybersquatter's infringing domain name is identical to or confusingly similar to the plaintiff mark
 3. The cybersquatter registered the domain name in bad faith
- Resolving Disputes through the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy: [UDRP] 1999
 - ✓ The allegedly wrongful domain name is identical or confusingly similar to the complainants' trademark;
 - ✓ The domain name registrant has no legitimate interest in the domain name and
 - ✓ The domain name is being used in bad faith

NEW DEVELOPMENT IN COPYRIGHT LAW:

- While acknowledging that clothing is a useful article and thus not subject to copyright protection, a New York Federal court ruled that lace design, copyrighted as writing and incorporated into wedding dresses, were protectable and enjoined another maker of wedding dresses from making or marketing copies. Similarly, detailed embroiders or

some other two dimensional drawing or graphic work affixed to a portion of a garment may be copyrightable.

- A federal court in California recently held that while type fonts themselves are not protectable under copyright law, a software program that generated and created the typefaces was protectable.
- As soon as Stephen King sold his book riding the Bullet exclusively in an Internet format, an individual cracked the copyright protection software and posted free copies of the book on the Internet. The publishers responded by adopting stronger encryption technology. Similarly, in 2000, Mr. King suspended online publication of a serial novel because too many individuals were downloading the work without paying it.
- It late 1997 President Clinton signed into law the No Electronic Theft [NET] Act [amending 18 U.S.C §2319] to enhance criminal penalties for copyright infringement, even if the infringer does not profit from the transaction. The act also extends the statutes of limitations for criminal copyright infringement from three to five years, and allows law enforcement officers to use federal copyright law against online copyright violation, thereby extending the same copyright protection to the Internet that is provided to other media.
- In September 1999, the Clinton administration relaxed government restrictions on the export of encryption products and simultaneously introduced new legislation to give law enforcement agencies greater authority to combat the use of computers by terrorists and criminals and to create a new code cracking unit within the FBI [Foreign Bureau of Investigation] .
- In mid-2000, president Clinton signed the Electronic signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, making digital execution, called e-signatures, as legally binding as their paper counterparts.
- In 2000, federal prosecutors in Chicago indicted seventeen people who called themselves “Pirates with Attitude” for pirating thousands of software program. The case was brought under the NET Act. Some of the individuals were former employees of Intel and Microsoft.
- The copyright office has recommended that congress amend section 110 of the copyright Act to grant educators the right to transmit copyrighted works for distance learning if certain conditions are met.

NEW DEVELOPMENT IN PATENT LAW:

The patent Act has proven remarkably flexible in accommodating changes and development in technology. Thus advisement in technology generally has not necessitated changes in the stately governing patent protection.

Business method and software patent:

Many of the cutting-edge issues in patent law related to patents for computer software. For several years, the conventional wisdom has been that unless a computer program had significant commercial value and application patent protection was often counterproductive or ineffective in that the PTO often took two years to issue a patent, roughly the same time it took for the software program to become absolute.

Biotechnology patent:

Medicines, Science, agricultural and pharmacology present the other cutting-edge issues in patent law. Research into genes may hold the key to curing disease throughout the world. Agricultural research may hold the key to providing sufficient food for the world's ever-increasing population.

The development of strains of plants and crops that are resistant to drought and disease has also led to an increasing number of patents issued, and attendant litigation. In the field of "agbiotech".

American Investors Protection Act of 1999 [AIPA]:

The AIPA was signed into law in 1999 and represents the most significant changes to patent law in twenty years. Although some of the provisions of AIPA have been discussed earlier, its key subtitles are as follows:

- Inventors' Right Act of 1999
- The First Inventor Defense Act of 1999
- The patent term guarantee act of 1999
- The domestic publication of Foreign filed patent application act of 1999
- The optional Inter parts reexamination procedure Act of 1999

Introduction of International Patent protection:

The rights granted by a U.S Patent extend only throughout the U.S and have no effect in a foreign country. Therefore, an inventor who desires patent protection in other countries must apply for a patent in each of the other countries or in regional patent office.

- The Paris convention (already it is in previous units)
- The European patent organization
- Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of IPR (already it is in previous units)
- The patent Law Treaty
- Foreign Filing Licenses
- Applications for United States Patents by Foreign applicants

The European patent organization:

The European Patent Organization (EPO) was founded in 1973 to provide a uniform patent system in Europe. A European patent can be obtained by filing a single application with

the EPO headquartered in Munich (or its subbranches in The Hague or Berlin or with the national offices in the contracting nations). Once granted, the patent is valid in any of the EPO countries designated in the application and has the same force as patent granted in any one of the contracting nations.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AUDITS:

Many companies believe that copyright extends only to important literary works and therefore fail to secure protection for their marketing brochures or other written materials. Similarly, companies often fail to implement measures to ensure valuable trade secrets maintain their protectability. Because clients are often unaware of the great potential and value of this property, law firms often offer their clients an intellectual property audit to uncover a company's protectable intellectual property. The IP audit is analogous to the accounting audit most companies conduct on an annual basis to review their financial status.

Another type of IP investigation is usually conducted when a company acquires another entity. At that time, a thorough investigation should be conducted of the intellectual property of the target company to ensure the acquiring company will obtain the benefits of what it is paying for and will not inherit infringement suits and other problems stemming from the target's failure to protect its IP. This type of IP investigation is generally called a **due diligence** review inasmuch as the acquiring company and its counsel have an obligation to duly and diligently investigate the target's assets.

Conducting the Audit:

- The first step in the audit should be a face-to-face meeting of the legal team and company managers.
- The legal team should make a brief presentation on what Intellectual Property is, why it is important to the company, and why and how the audit will be conducted.
- Managers will be more likely to cooperate if they fully understand the importance of the audit.
- Obtaining this kind of "buy-in" from the client's managers and employees will speed the audit and reduce costs.
- Moreover, education about the importance of intellectual property helps ensure that managers consider ways to further protect a company's valuable assets and remain alert to possible infringements of the company's Intellectual capital or infringements by the competitor of other's right.
- Finally, having outside counsel involved in the process will ensure that communications related to the audit are protected by the attorney-client privilege.
- Once the company's managers have been advised of the need for the audit, the legal team should provide a work-sheet or questionnaire to the company specifying the type of information that the firm is looking for so that company files can be reviewed and materials assembled for inspection by the firm and its representatives.