

March 2016

PIPLA NEWS

The official newsletter of the Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Law Association

MARCH DINNER MEETING & CLE

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

The Duquesne Club – Patio & Founders Room
323 Sixth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Phone: 412-391-1500

Time: 5:15 P.M. – Cash Bar (Patio, 1st Floor)
6:00 P.M. – Dinner (Plated) & Program
(Founders Room)

Payment Required:

Members: \$55-Dinner/\$20-CLE
Non-Members: \$55-Dinner/ \$60-CLE

Check payable to PIPLA. Mail to:

PIPLA
c/o The Webb Law Firm
One Gateway Center, Ste. 1200
420 Ft. Duquesne Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

OR PayPal via website:
www.piplaonline.org. Please RSVP by
March 11, 2016

No refunds for cancellations; walk-ins cannot be accommodated; late RSVPs after March 11, 2016 contingent upon seating/meal availability with an additional \$20 fee.

Speaker: William J. Roberts, Jr., Associate Register of Copyrights and Director of Public Information and Education, U.S. Copyright Office

The title of Mr. Roberts' talk will be "*Copyright Matters: Recent Developments in U.S. Copyright Law and Practices*" (1 Hr. Substantive Credit)



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2016 MEETING DATES

Mark your calendars!

- **March 16, 2016** – Dinner Meeting (Duquesne Club)
- **April 20, 2016** – Annual Meeting/ Awards Lunch (Eddie Merlot's)

2016 INVENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Law Association announces that it is accepting nominations for its 2016 INVENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD.

The INVENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD is awarded annually to honor living inventors whose patented inventions have a significant impact on the economy, the social wellbeing, and the advancement of technology. To be eligible, an inventor or team of inventors must reside or work within, or have some special connection to the Pittsburgh tri-state area.

Nominations may be made on the basis of one or more issued United States Patents, regardless of date of issue. It is not necessary that all of the inventors named on the patents on which a nomination is based be included in the nomination. Inventors who were nominated in prior years may again be nominated.

A plaque recognizing the Inventor of the Year will be presented to the winning nominee at the April 20, 2016 luncheon meeting of the Association.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN March 30, 2016. Nomination forms are available on the PIPLA website.

2016 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD APPLICATION

PIPLA is pleased to announce its annual Intellectual Property Law Student Leadership Award Competition.

Two \$1,000 awards will be given, one to a law student at the University of Pittsburgh and the other to a law student at Duquesne University.

To be eligible, an applicant must:

(1) Be a currently enrolled law student at either the University of Pittsburgh or Duquesne University; and

(2) Have completed or be currently enrolled in at least three Intellectual Property courses.

The award will be based upon the applicant's demonstration of leadership as reflected by:

(1) Applicant's grades in the courses taken in the law school's Intellectual Property elective course concentration and the Intellectual Property courses in which the law student is currently enrolled;

(2) Participation in student or professional organizations that are related to the development, education, or advancement of Intellectual Property;

(3) Participation in moot court competitions involving issues of Intellectual Property;

(4) Articles written on Intellectual Property issues submitted for publication in any medium; and

(5) Clinical work the applicant participated in that involved issues of Intellectual Property.

Any eligible law student that wishes to apply must complete and submit the application form no later than March 16, 2016. Application forms are available on the PIPLA website.

The awards will be presented to the winning applicants at the April 20, 2016 lunch meeting of PIPLA.

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY AND MARVELL SETTLE PATENT DISPUTE

On Wednesday, February 17, 2016, Marvell Technology Group Ltd. ("Marvell") announced that it will pay Carnegie Mellon University ("CMU") \$750 million to settle a nearly seven-year-old lawsuit in which Marvell was accused of infringing two hard disk drive patents held by the Pittsburgh-based University. The patents in dispute, U.S. Patent Nos. 6,201,839 and 6,438,180, are directed to reducing "noise" when reading information on hard disks.

After a win at the district court level, CMU was on track to collect as much as \$1.54 billion. That sum would have represented a 50-cent-per-chip royalty on 556.8 million chips imported into the United States for use in the disk drives. However, an appeals court reduced the massive award against the chipmaker to \$278.4 million, plus interest, and ordered a new trial with the potential for additional damages upon the determination of whether particular foreign sales qualify as United States sales.

After legal fees and other costs are paid, the two inventors, José Moura, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Carnegie Mellon, and Aleksandar Kavcic, a former student of Moura's and now a professor of electrical and computer

engineering at the University of Hawaii, are expected to take home a substantial share of the proceeds. "A key part of Carnegie Mellon's mission is making discoveries that have global impact," said CMU President Subra Suresh, "We are pleased to honor the work of José and Alek." The University expects to keep approximately \$250 million as a result of the settlement, of which it will dedicate a majority of the money to its students.

In many ways the Marvell lawsuit was unprecedented for CMU, which infrequently pursues measures to stop patent infringement. However, we may begin to see a shift in this trend. The University announced over its website that its intellectual property policy is critical to fulfilling the University's mission of creating and disseminating knowledge and, therefore, typically provides for creators and the University to share in the proceeds, in order to encourage faculty to conduct cutting-edge research.

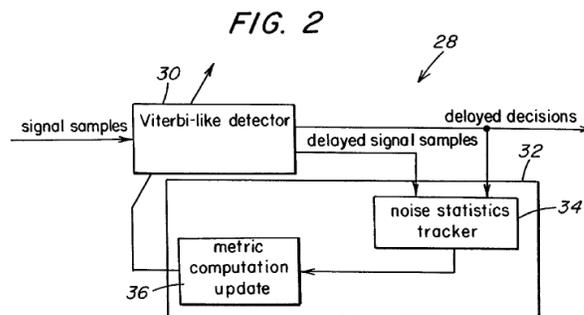
CMU currently has partnerships with more than 350 companies including Google, Microsoft, Apple, and Intel. These partnerships have helped reshape the technology sector of the Pittsburgh region. As CMU continues to play a leading role in catalyzing a new Innovation Corridor in Pittsburgh, we may see CMU take a more aggressive approach in protecting its intellectual property.

PITTSBURGH INVENTION SPOTLIGHT

In light of the CMU-Marvel patent settlement, this month's invention spotlight highlights one of the patents involved in the dispute. U.S. Patent No. 6,201,839, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Correlation-Sensitive Adaptive Sequence Detection", issued on March 13, 2001. As the previous article mentioned, the two inventors, Aleksandar Kavcic and Jose M. F. Moura, hail from Pittsburgh, and the patent is assigned to Pittsburgh's own Carnegie Mellon University.

The invention is directed to high density magnetic recording sequence detectors and discloses correlation-sensitive sequence detectors. This invention is significant in its art because it takes into account the correlation between noise samples in the readback signal. This leads to the detected data sequence being detected with a higher degree of accuracy. Figure 2 shows a preferred

embodiment of the CS-MLSD detector circuit of the invention.



FROM THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

We hope you've enjoyed this issue of the 2015/2016 PIPLA News, an informative and hopefully entertaining look at the goings on in IP law. We invite our entire readership to contribute to this endeavor with articles, announcements, and job postings of your own. If you have something you would like included in PIPLA News or have questions about how you can contribute, please contact Michael Grese at 412-471-8815 or at mgrese@webblaw.com.

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