



ERIC H. SMITH

ERIC H. SMITH is President of the International Intellectual Property Alliance® (IIPA®), a private sector coalition of seven trade associations which represents over 1,900 companies producing and distributing materials protected by copyright laws throughout the world, including: business applications software; entertainment software on all platforms; theatrical films, television programs, home videos, and digital representations of audiovisual works; music, records, CDs, and audiocassettes; and textbooks, tradebooks, reference and professional publications and journals (in both electronic and print media).

Since co-founding the IIPA in 1984, he has represented the IIPA before U.S. and foreign governments with the primary objective of opening foreign markets to U.S. copyrighted products and reducing piracy levels through improved legal protection and effective enforcement. He was the principal representative of the copyright industries in the WTO/TRIPS and NAFTA intellectual property negotiations and served on the U.S. delegation at the Diplomatic Conference leading to the adoption of the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty in 1996.

Eric Smith is also Managing Partner of the Washington, DC law firm of Smith, Strong & Schlesinger LLP. The firm specializes in global and domestic copyright, trade, trademark, entertainment and information law and policy advocacy. Prior to 1986, he practiced law with several private law firms and with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), where from 1980-82, he served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel. In 1986, Mr. Smith formed his own practice, specializing in international copyright matters, and between 1995-2006, he was Managing Partner of Smith & Metalitz LLP.

A native of California, Mr. Smith holds a J.D. degree from the University of California at Berkeley (Boalt Hall, 1967) and received his B.A. degree with honors from Stanford University (1964). He also holds a M.A. degree from the School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University (1968), where he specialized in international law and economics. He is a member of the bar in the District of Columbia and California (inactive status). Mr. Smith is admitted to practice before the following Federal courts: Northern District California, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Smith serves as Chairman of the ITAC-15, the Executive Branch's trade advisory committee on intellectual property rights and regularly advises the U.S. government on negotiating strategy in the trade/intellectual property rights arena. He was formerly Chairman of the IFAC-3, the predecessor to ITAC-15, as well as a member of IFAC-4, which formally advised the U.S. Government on e-commerce issues. He is a former trustee of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A., and former Chairman of the D.C. Bar's Committee on Copyright. He is a member of the American Bar Association and the Computer Law Association. Mr. Smith has written several articles on communications and international copyright and has lectured worldwide on many subjects related to domestic and international copyright, U.S. trade policy and intellectual property and the new technologies.

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