INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND ACCESS TO SCIENCE AND CULTURE: CONVERGENCE OR CONFLICT?

International roundtable organized in the context of the CEIPI series of lectures “Rethinking Intellectual Property, Fundamental Questions and New Perspectives”

Strasbourg, CEIPI, May 11, 2015 - Amphithéâtre 23, 14h00 -17h30
ABSTRACT:

The human right to science and culture is universally recognized in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). At the same time, both these provisions also incorporate “the right to the protection of the moral and material interests” of creators, creating a potential and inherent tension between these rights and access to science and culture. However, the exact implications of these provisions still remain unclear and are debated at scholarly and policy level. Recently, the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights has issued a remarked report on “Copyright policy and the right to science and culture” which generates further discussions. For example, to which extent may the right to science and culture be understood as covering a field as complex and varied as intellectual property? Do Art. 27 UDHR and Art. 15 ICESCR confer the human rights protection to all traditionally recognised IP rights or to only certain components thereof? And, if it is the case, how can this protection be reconciled with the other interests of fundamental importance that they may contradict? Should the guarantee to participate fairly in the fruits of the commercial exploitation of one’s productions be subjected to promoting intellectual variety and spreading the culture and science?

This roundtable organized by the Centre for International Intellectual Property Studies (CEIPI) in the context of the CEIPI series of lectures will address these and other issues on how to design an IP system that can foster economic growth while at the same time encouraging non-economic values and objectives of human development. In particular, it will focus on the relationship between patent law and policy and the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. It will further explore – through the prism of the right to culture – how the copyright system can be designed so as to benefit the interests of both creators and the public in an equitable way.

PROGRAM OF THE ROUNDTABLE:

14h00: Introduction and moderation: Christophe Geiger, Associate Professor, Director General and Director of the research department of CEIPI

14h15: “Appropriation and Free Access to Scientific Knowledge: Limiting the Scope of IPRs”  
Carlos Correa, Professor and Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Industrial Property Law and Economics, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Visiting Professor at CEIPI

14h35: “Aiding Technological Development: Tailoring IP Law to Stimulate Emerging Economies”  
Rochelle Dreyfuss, Pauline Newman Professor of Law, Co-Director of the Engelberg Center on Innovation Law and Policy, New York University School of Law, US, Visiting Professor at CEIPI

Comments and Q&A

Coffee break

15h40: “The Recent Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on IP and Access to Culture”  
Lea Shaver, Associate Professor, Indiana University, Robert H. McKinney School of Law, US, Visiting Professor at CEIPI

16h00: “Is it Copyright’s Role to Fill Houses with Books?”  
Rebecca Giblin, Associate Professor at the Monash University, Faculty of Law, Australia, Visiting Researcher at CEIPI

Comments and Q&A

16h50: Panel discussion moderated by Frédérique Berrod, Professor and Director of the Research Federation “Europe en mutation”, University of Strasbourg

Peggy Ducoulombier, Professor at the University of Strasbourg

Mylène Bidault, Human Rights Officer at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations, Switzerland

Christophe Geiger, Associate Professor, Director General of CEIPI, University of Strasbourg

17h30: Closure