

FEATURE POSTS



Are We There Yet? Pooling Together to Fight the COVID-19 Pandemic

April 16, 2020 by Summer Lewis

During the current health crisis, it is doubtful that many companies have been able to operate under the “business as usual” approach. With the [closure of non-essential stores](#), the [extra protections](#) put in place for grocery stores and pharmacies that remain open, and the [never-ending hours for frontline workers tending to sick individuals](#), so many business models have had to adapt to the current health conditions. While intellectual property (IP) strategy does not seem paramount in this climate, for one particular industry, it is still crucial.

Drug manufacturers are currently under pressure to forgo their patent rights to provide “[potentially life-saving treatments and vaccines for Coronavirus](#)”. The World Health Organization (WHO) [welcomed a proposal from Costa Rica](#), which suggests that companies should voluntarily pool their IP for medical interventions. This would allow governments and generic drug manufacturers to sell the products at lower prices and provide solutions that may have otherwise been inaccessible.

Written by Summer Lewis, a second year JD Candidate at Osgoode Hall Law School. Summer is also the Content Editor of the IPilogue.

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IPIC & IP OSGOODE Canada's IP Writing Challenge

Entries must be received by 5 p.m. (ET) on **Wednesday, July 1, 2020**

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Congratulations to IP Osgoode Advisory Board member [Casey Chisick](#) for being [recognized by Managing Intellectual Property](#) as Canada's Outstanding Copyright Practitioner for 2020.

LATEST POSTS

Tesla's Patent Pledge: An altruistic act or a stroke of marketing genius?

April 14, 2020 by Ryan Wong

It's been more than five years since Tesla's Patent Pledge, which saw Elon Musk announce that the company “[will not initiate patent lawsuits against anyone who, in good faith, wants to use our technology](#)”. Musk [explained his decision](#) by referencing “the spirit of the open source movement”, the advancement of electric vehicle (“EV”) technology, and the urgency of the carbon crisis. Many articles have since written about the legal enforceability of the patent pledge and whether or not companies should begin using Tesla's open source patents.

Written by Ryan Wong, a second year JD Candidate at Osgoode Hall Law School. He is a guest contributor with the IPilogue and is one of the Student Coordinators with the Innovation Clinic.

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Internet Archive: Challenging Copyright Holders around the World

April 15, 2020 by Luca Vaez Tehrani

On March 24, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Internet Archive ([archive.org](#)) announced a [National Emergency Library](#) providing unlimited public access to its collection of 1.4 million archived books. All users have to do is sign up for an account and they are able to access a vast array of archived books, articles, and other literary works. This definitely sounds like a good deal for all of us stuck at home, but for many authors and copyright holders, this may be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

The Internet Archive, which has been around since 1996, is a [non-profit organization](#) dedicated to building a library of internet sites and cultural artifacts in digital form. Their website, Open Library, claims to be digitizing [1000 books per day](#) from all around the world. You may be wondering, how does this effect copyright holders? Well, they [don't ask for permission](#) from rights holders before adding books to their digital archives.

Written by Luca Vaez Tehrani, IP Innovation Clinic Senior Fellow and JD Candidate at Osgoode Hall Law School

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Events

Fundamentals of Intellectual Property Law for Emerging Clients

April 22, 2020

For more information and to register, please [click here](#).

Webinar – Clean-tech and Intellectual Property

April 27, 2020

For more information and to register please [click here](#).

Primed for AI – the basics of artificial intelligence and machine learning

May 13, 2020

For more information and to register please [click here](#).

IP Picks of the Week

The [Association of Canadian Publishers \(ACP\)](#) and [Access Copyright](#) partnered to start the [Read Aloud Canadian Books Program](#), which allows a waiver of licence fees until June 30, 2020, related to the reading of books from participating publishers and posting recordings online. [Click here](#) for the current list of participating Read Aloud Canadian Books Program publishers and authors.

[The City of Toronto launched](#) livestreamed series called [City Hall Live Online](#). The series is raising money for Unison Benevolent Fund, while showcasing and creating paid opportunities for local musicians during this time of postponed events.

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York in its recent decision dismissed the lawsuit brought by a photographer Stephanie Sinclair against the tech news site Mashable, where they used one of Sinclair's Instagram photos in an article. Judge Wood ruled that Mashable did not violate copyright law, as Sinclair granted a license to Instagram to use her photo when she uploaded it. Read full text of the decision [here](#).



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