

## **Intellectual Property Section**

*Amy Span Wergeles, Chair*

### **Purpose**

Intellectual property—patents, trademarks, copyrights, licensing, trade secrets, unfair competition, domain names, and other technology-related areas of the law—is a topic that arises in most corporate deals, in many businesses, and in a great deal of litigation. The Intellectual Property Section of the Connecticut Bar Association addresses the problems of the legal protection of intellectual property, strives to keep its members fully informed and engaged in the latest developments in the protection of intellectual property rights, and works with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the U.S. Copyright Office to encourage improvements in the patent, trademark, and copyright systems. The section provides continuing legal education programs, activities for members, comments to governmental agencies in the field of intellectual property, and services to inventors, business owners, authors, and the public. Our members include private practice, in-house, association, and government practitioners, with practices spanning the full range of intellectual property law. Novices and skilled practitioners alike, from law students to solo practitioners to those in patent boutiques to 300 or more attorney firms, are invited to take advantage of the section’s programs and activities.

### **Annual Report**

The Intellectual Property Section was relatively inactive for the first part of the year. Following a change of leadership, numerous activities were planned for later this spring through the end of the year. In May, U.S. District Court Judge Janet Hall addressed the section at a dinner held in New Haven. The following week, the section cosponsored an educational program with the Young Lawyers Section Intellectual Property Committee. Major League Baseball’s Laurie Marshall was the featured speaker. In June, the section will be a “cooperating organization” for the American Bar Association’s IP Law Summer Conference in Boston. This part of the year will finish with a networking meeting in June.

Plans are in the works for two exciting programs next fall. In September, the section will present a panel discussion bringing together some of the top in-house IP attorneys in the state to discuss “In-House Counsel—What Are They Looking For in an Outside Counsel?” In November, we are planning a “nuts-and-bolts” program for which CLE credit will be offered. The program will include the basics of patent, trademark, copyright, licensing, and domain name law.

Additional meetings are in the planning stages, including programs on digital music downloading and the future of business method patents. We welcome the involvement of all section members.