

ENSURING A STRONG INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SYSTEM

Spotlight: A fundamental principle of the American legal system is that every right must have a remedy, but today, many small creators, especially visual artists, are unable to protect their rights because the cost of pursuing an infringement claim in federal court is far greater—as much as ten times or more—than the damages they could ever hope to receive. That is why the Committee and the House passed H.R. 2426, the “Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act of 2019” or the “CASE Act of 2019.” This important bipartisan legislation would establish a voluntary small claims court within the Copyright Office to hear copyright suits seeking \$30,000 or less in total damages.

Thanks to our strong intellectual property system, the United States is a world leader in innovation and creativity, which is a key driver of economic growth. The Committee conducted oversight of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the U.S. Copyright Office to ensure that they are administering a system that is fair and efficient for all innovators, entrepreneurs, creators, and users of intellectual property. The Committee also examined the lack of diversity among patentholders and passed legislation to ensure that small creators are able to protect their copyrighted work from infringement. In addition, the Committee worked to include provisions in the CARES Act to provide needed flexibility to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the Copyright Office to ensure that the intellectual property system remains strong and secure during the COVID-19 pandemic.

H.R. 5140, the “Satellite Television Community Protection and Promotion Act of 2019” [Marked Up, Passed House, LAW]*

H.R. 2426, the “Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement (CASE) Act of 2019” [Marked Up, Passed House]

H.R. 3991, the “Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Through Improvements to Patent Litigation Act of 2019” [Marked Up]

H.R. 7259, the “Patents for Humanity Program Improvement Act” [Passed House]

Hearing: Lost Einsteins: Lack of Diversity in Patent Inventorship and the Impact on America’s Innovation Economy

Hearing: The Patent Trial and Appeal Board and the Appointments Clause: Implications of Recent Court Decisions

Hearing: Counterfeits and Cluttering: Emerging Threats to the Integrity of the Trademark System and the Impact on American Consumers and Businesses

Hearing: Oversight of the U.S. Copyright Office

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