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# LEASON ELLIS

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### Congrats to Cameron Reuber and Joel Felber

We are very proud to announce that we have made our associates Joel Felber and Cameron Reuber partners of the firm! They each joined us many years ago and have proven themselves worthy of the title. We look forward to many more years of health and happiness with them and everyone else here at Leason Ellis.

# Welcome, Courtney Shanney and Peter Busch

We're also pleased to welcome Courtney Shanney and Peter Busch to the firm as associates. Courtney, whose practice focuses on patent litigation and prosecution, and Peter, a registered Patent Agent with privileges to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, will further strengthen our already-impressive group of associates.





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## Melvin Garner Serves on PLI Panel

Melvin Garner was a panelist at the "IP Issues in Business Transactions 2016" seminar for Practicing Law Institute on January 9. Mel spoke at a session titled "New IP Issues Impacting Business Transactions: Copyrights, Trademarks, Domain Names, Patents and Trade Secrets." The program addressed recent developments and their impact on transactions involving copyrights, trademarks, patents, and trade secrets,

and adapting IP transactions to evolving business and

technological landscapes.

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#### Marty Schwimmer Appears on Podcast

IP Fridays, a podcast dedicated to intellectual Property, spoke with our very own Marty Schwimmer. Marty recently argued the Bayer Flanax case, which is about use of trademarks, wellknown trademarks, and rights to a name without registration.

### WTR Honors for Leason Ellis

The 2016 edition of "WTR 1000 – The World's Leading Trademark Professionals" has just been published, and Leason Ellis is ranked among the top trademark law firms in New York. The publication states that "Leason Ellis is a trustworthy alternative to the usual New York City players ... [b]oasting an all-star team of ex-Big Law practitioners [which] provides the same services as its rivals, but at a competitive price point facilitated by high-tech document management and lower local billing rates. Peter Sloane, Karin Segall and Martin Schwimmer in particular are singled out for their outstanding work."

#### **Busy INTA schedule for Peter Sloane**

Peter Sloane is scheduled to speak at the INTA Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. On Saturday, May 21, Peter is participating in a panel discussion titled "The Global Associate Relationship: Choosing and Working with the Best Local Counsel Around the World." On Tuesday, May 24, he is also moderating a table topic titled "Finding and Cultivating Trademark Associates Who Can Thrive."

# **LEGAL UPDATES**

#### Important EU Trademark System Change

On **March 23**, **2016**, new changes to the European Community trademark system will take effect. Importantly, the scope of protection of certain CTMs filed before June 22, 2012 may be affected. Traditionally, it was common practice to broadly cover goods and services by identifying what is known as the class headings. Prior to 2012, a registration covering a class heading was interpreted to cover all the goods/ services in a class, even if they were not specifically named in the specification. However, in 2012, the EU courts issued a precedential decision declaring that where a class heading is used, the trademark is interpreted to cover the exact goods/services listed or anything that could be reasonably interpreted as falling under the wording. A six-month sunset period will begin on March 23rd, where the owners of CTM registrations can file a declaration to clarify whether they intended to seek



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protection for more than the literal interpretation of the heading. We are happy to review your current trademark protection in the EU and discuss whether filing a declaration or any other change is warranted.

# IN BRIEF

#### Help Us to Help You

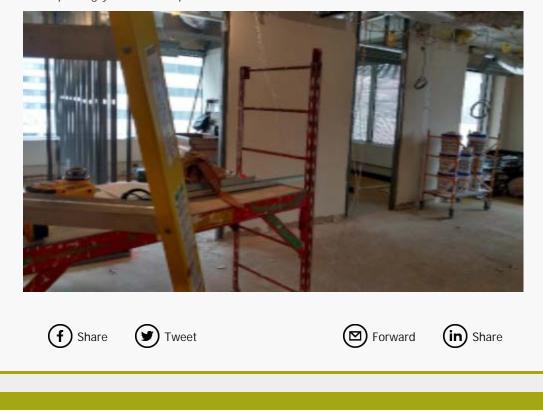
A periodic internal review of your intellectual property registrations can help streamline future litigation. If registration errors are found at the outset of a litigation matter, such as outdated company name or address, or a less than complete description of the protected material, then corrections may often be handled simply through administrative filings, but the process can take time and may be costly to expedite. Discovering IP registration errors late in the game will likely delay the start of litigation and lead to vulnerability. Registrations errors, even benign errors, may turn an otherwise strong plaintiff on the defensive. We want our clients to be in the best position when litigating their IP rights, so help us to help you by periodically asking us to review your registrations to ensure accuracy.

#### Is it Worthwhile to Register Your Domain Extensions?

Should you be concerned about registering domains in the various country extensions (e.g., .cn, .hk, .ca, .fr)? It is essentially a question of budget, as the costs can add up quickly. Your budget should first be allocated to obtaining and maintaining trademark registrations in territories of interest as only owning a trademark registration will afford you recourse in the event of a bad faith registration of a variation of your domain. In terms of the country extensions, the answer really depends on the nature of your business: is it an international on-line driven business, and do you intend to provide country specific sites? If so, then it may make sense to register the domains in the countries of interest.

#### **Expansion Underway**

Renovations are underway on the fourth-floor beneath us and we'll soon be adding to our fifth-floor office space. We anticipate the first of two parcels will be ready in early-to-mid April. The second parcel will be finished later in the year, likely between late summer and mid-fall. When the entire project is completed, we will have added about 7,000 square feet, giving us a total of nearly 20,000 square feet of office space. We are very excited about the firm's continued growth, and we look forward to updating you on our expansion.



Extra. Extra. Read All About It! The Leason Ellis Newsletter is here!

