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International IP Policy

Steptoe attorneys are leaders in shaping and responding to the legal implications of the new technologies and policy concerns driving developments in national and international intellectual property legislation and policy. These developments affect virtually every sector of industry, including the Internet, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, agricultural, and chemicals industries. We have practical experience with the legal, commercial, environmental, and political implications of new technology for intellectual property strategies in these industries.

In addition to new technologies that must be accommodated in national intellectual property laws, we have substantial experience with global public policy concerns such as public health, consumer policy, and competition policy, which are also important factors in shaping intellectual property law.

Our attorneys know the intellectual property policymakers, how new laws are developed, and how existing laws are administered. We work with clients to seek changes to national and international intellectual property rules using government-to-government channels and via relevant international institutions. We ensure that our clients' commercial interests are considered and reflected in emerging laws and changing practices.

We have deep experience with policymakers in key jurisdictions such as the European Union and the United States. We are engaged in the rapidly evolving intellectual property policies of emerging markets such as the new group of EU accession countries and developing country markets such as India, China, Brazil, and Turkey. Further, we are active in key international organizations such as the WTO, especially regarding the TRIPS Agreement, and WIPO.

We also advise clients on strategies for international enforcement of intellectual property rights in national courts and administrative agencies, under EU rules, and at the WTO.