2019 Anti-Counterfeiting Year in Review

January

- **Reports of PIPCU’s Demise Greatly Exaggerated as UKIPO Commits to Future Funding**
  - The claims that funding has fallen through for Police’s Intellectual Property Unit (PIPCU) are not true. The UK intellectual property office is committed to continue funding PIPCU when the current funding cycle runs out in June 2019.

- **Chinese police pull the plug on Dyson hairdryer pirates**
  - A seize operation by Chinese authorities yielded 400 counterfeit hair dryers. The company behind the operation was reported to have made more than $1.5 million in sales of counterfeits.

- **The $3.1 trillion toll of counterfeit wine**
  - Anqi Shen, a law professor from Northumbria University, stated that the wine counterfeiting industry will be worth an estimated $3.1 trillion globally by the year 2022. With China being the second-biggest wine consumer market in the world, there needs to be more strict regulations that discourage people from producing and consuming fake wine.

- **Replica forum reacts to Alibaba’s Taobao claims**
  - Alibaba Group recently came out with its most recent annual intellectual property protection report. The report shows that the company has improved in its efforts to combat counterfeit goods on their websites. These claims were put under fire by users on a Reddit forum called “Fashion Reps”. Most users claim the data is inaccurate or fake, while few say that it is more difficult to purchase fake goods on Alibaba’s market platforms.

- **Stolen Artwork Is All Over Amazon - And Creators Want The Company To Do Something About It**
  - The issue of stolen artwork on Amazon is widespread and well-known, but the company has yet to address the infringement in a meaningful way. Works of art are considered copyrighted goods, not trademarks, so they do not qualify for Amazon’s proactive brand protection services.
February

- **Super Bowl cracks down on counterfeiters leading up to the big game**
  - ICE has seized nearly $24.2 million worth of counterfeit merchandise, which consists of NFL merchandise and tickets. The operation was dubbed ‘Team Player’ and led to the confiscation of 285,000 counterfeit sports team items.

- **Africa lacks anti-counterfeiting tools of other regions, report finds**
  - A report by ENACT Africa argues that the continent has fallen behind other regions in terms of safeguards against counterfeit advances.

- **Amazon has acknowledged counterfeits for the first time in its annual report**
  - Amazon has listed counterfeits as a risk factor for the first time in its latest annual report.

- **Dissolution of the Trademarks Appeal Committee in Sudan**
  - The Sudanese trademark office issued an update to Sudanese law stating that they may refuse the registration of a trademark and any refusal may be appealed to the court in which it is mandatory to appeal through a lawyer.

- **Jerry Seinfeld sues California classic car dealer over ‘counterfeit’ ‘58 Porsche**
  - Jerry Seinfeld is going after the classic car dealer European Collectibles after he claims they sold him a counterfeit ‘58 Porsche in 2013. Seinfeld said he had no clue the car could have been counterfeit until the new owner of the vehicle sued Seinfeld. He believes that European Collectibles should be responsible for selling the illegitimate vehicle to him in the first place.

- **Fake fuse: Bloke admits selling counterfeit chips for use in B-1 bomber, other US military gear**
  - Rogelio Vasquez, owner of California-based PRB logics Corporation, has pleaded guilty to selling fake branded semiconductor chips from China, some of which made their way to U.S. military systems. Vasquez was charged with one count of trafficking counterfeit military goods, one count of wire fraud, and two counts of trafficking counterfeit goods.

- **A Warning About Counterfeit Car Seats for Infants**
  - Counterfeit car seats that can put child safety at risk are being sold on Amazon.com and Walmart.com. A hospital in Boise, Idaho found out about the counterfeit car seats while performing car safety seat checks. Dr. Dina Burstein asserts that you shouldn’t buy used car seats or buy them online.

- **Pennsylvania Man Arrested for Selling Counterfeit Items at Polar Bear Plunge**
A man in Pennsylvania was arrested for selling counterfeit Polar Bear Plunge t-shirts. The apparel, along with several hundred dollars, was recovered by authorities.

**Virginia Man Charged with Selling Counterfeit Tickets to Duke, UNC game**
- Arlington, VA resident Timothy Sumer was arrested after trying to sell counterfeit tickets to a Duke vs University of North Carolina basketball game. Sumer was charged with criminal use of a counterfeit trademark as well as attempting to obtain property by false pretenses. Authorities reported that at the time of his arrest, Sumer was in possession of many counterfeit tickets.

**Police: 20,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills seized in Bronx, Manhattan**
- Police recovered more than 20,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills. The pills are suspected to contain fentanyl and more than 4 pounds of heroin. According to police officials, counterfeit pills have been increasing in appearance on the black market in New York City.

**David Yurman Awarded $1.55M in Counterfeit Case**
- David Yurman was awarded $1.55 million in damages from the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York against 31 defendants that falsely used the company’s trademark to sell counterfeit David Yurman products.

**New Orleans business owner pleads guilty to selling counterfeit goods**
- A New Orleans business owner pleaded guilty to trafficking nearly $194,000 worth of counterfeit clothing and luxury goods out of his store. Initially, agents only found 32 pairs of counterfeit Nike shoes. Two months later, agents found nearly $194,000 worth of counterfeit goods in the store.

**Driver caught trying to bring fake designer bags, wallets into Canada from Idaho**
- A Customs & Border Protection officer discovered counterfeit merchandise in the cab of a commercial vehicle. The discovered items were imitating designer brands such as Michael Kors, Kate Spade, and Chanel.

**Fake Rabies Vaccine Found in the Philippines Again**
- The Republic of the Philippines Food and Drug Administration has ordered the closure of Geramil Trading for selling counterfeit rabies vaccines. They admitted to injecting the counterfeit rabies vaccine into some of their patients.

**Counterfeit Perfumes Contain Human Urine and Rat Droppings, Police Tell Londoners**
- Police in London uncovered more than 500 bottles of fake perfume during a factory raid. The products are worth more than $51,000 according to the
authorities. Laboratory testing discovered that the fake perfumes contain several
unsafe chemicals like cyanide and human urine.

- **Amazon has finally admitted to investors that it has a counterfeit problem**
  - Amazon recently admitted to its investors that there is a counterfeit problem occurring on their selling platform. They also admitted that they could possibly be liable for the activities of the sellers.

### March

- **Amazon turns to tech in fight against fakes: offers “self-service” takedown tool for brands**
  - Amazon launched a new program called “Project Zero” with the goal to reduce the number of counterfeit items on their website. Brands who have registered trademarks provide their logos and other product data to Amazon, who then uses the program to scan through billions of products and take down counterfeit listings. Brand owners may also remove counterfeits themselves, as part of the self-service component. The program will also use a “product serialisation” service that can either confirm or deny the legitimacy of a product purchased on the selling platform.

- **Task force stops $1.1 million worth of counterfeits from travelling across Canada-US border**
  - A Global Trade Task Force led jointly by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security Investigations has been launched in Detroit, MI. The task force was created with the intention of seizing counterfeit pharmaceuticals which they believe to be traveling through international mail. On top of seizing pharmaceuticals, they were also able to seize airbags and watches.

- **Chinese companies sued by Facebook over trademark infringement and related offenses**
  - Facebook is looking to end the sale of fake accounts as well as stop the infringement of their trademarks. The company filed a lawsuit in a US federal court against four companies and three individuals in China. Through these lawsuits, Facebook hopes to communicate to the public that this type of infringement is not acceptable.

- **EUIPO confirms completion of 2025 Strategic Plan consultation**
  - The EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) has announced that consultation on their 2025 strategic plan has ended.

- **Swiss IPO warns against counterfeit goods**
  - The Swiss federal Institute of IPI has warned consumers from buying fake counterfeit items online in a new blog post. The report stated that in the past 12
months, there has been an increase in counterfeit goods seized by the Swiss Federal Customs Administration. Online sales of counterfeit goods have also been on the rise.

- **Beyoncé trademark battle heats up**
  - Beyoncé has refused to give up private communications with her husband and mother in a continuing trademark battle that would prove her intent to use the trademark. The pop star’s use of the term BLUE IVY has been one of controversy amongst herself and businesswoman Veronica Morales.

- **US/China trademark war “could lead to a boom in counterfeits”**
  - Steve Shapiro, unit chief for the FBI’s intellectual property rights unit, has stated that the trade war between the United States and China could lead to a drastic increase in counterfeit goods.

- **13 million doses of illegally trafficked medicine seized by Europol in 2018**
  - Last year, Europol seized more than €165 million in illegally-trafficked medicine. More than half of the seized drugs were counterfeit.

- **Call for post-Brexit partnerships to fight counterfeiting**
  - The director general at the Anti-Counterfeiting Group (ACG) has requested that the UK government aid in their protection following Brexit to protect consumers from counterfeit goods.

- **IACC cracks down on iOffer**
  - The International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition has been working with Mastercard and other payment partners to prevent transactions on the online marketplace iOffer from going through.

- **China targets fake agricultural supplies; reveal big luxury goods bust**
  - China’s Supreme People’s Procuratorate (SPP) has announced that their authorities will begin to target counterfeit and/or substandard agricultural products such as fertilizer, pesticides, and seeds.

- **Chinese supermarkets remove fake Starbucks from shelves**
  - Counterfeit instant Starbucks VIA coffee products were removed from numerous Chinese supermarket chains after their discovery. The counterfeits were discovered following multiple complaints to the food and drug administration.

- **Alibaba Anti–Counterfeiting Alliance Seized $536.2 Million in fake goods last year: WTR exclusive**
  - Alibaba, along with anti-counterfeiting alliance member brands, led criminal investigations in 2018 that led to the arrest of 1,277 suspects and the closure of
524 factories and distribution locations. The seized counterfeit products were worth a total of $536.2 million (RMB 3.6 billion).

- **Hundreds Of Fake Juul Pods Seized in Philadelphia: Feds**
  - U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized over 1,150 counterfeit Juul pods in Philadelphia, PA. While the shipping parcel was labeled as containing “plastic pipe samples”, it really had 36 cartons of counterfeit Juul pods in it. The shipment was worth an estimated $4,700.

### April

- **Amendments to the Estonian Trademark Act**
  - The Estonian Parliament passed a new trademark act that was enacted on April 1st. The passage of this act will speed up the process of trademark registration in Estonia.

- **“You can’t sleep or you will fall behind”: exclusive look inside Alibaba’s fight against fakes**
  - A group of luxury fashion brands granted Matthew Bassiur, Alibaba’s vice president, an award for his anti-counterfeiting efforts at the Luxury Law Summit.

- **Wine Label IP Directory launched in Australia**
  - David Littleproud, the Australian government’s minister for agriculture, announced a new resource to help combat the sale of counterfeit wines. The ‘Wine Label Intellectual Property Directory’ will allow for logos, brand names, and other trademarked properties to be searched for authenticity.

- **Fake Tequila auctions “may cause injury”**
  - A significant number of counterfeit tequila that could cause injury to consumers was found and reported by Mexico’s Trade Commissioner to Australia. The tequila was produced in Australia, rather than the parts of Mexico where the alcohol is usually made.

- **Fake Michigan State merchandise isn’t new. Using Cassius Winston’s photo to sell it is.**
  - Unlicensed Michigan State University merchandise isn’t hard to come by and the university’s logos and other trademarked images are often found being sold on T-shirts and other items. Something that caught MSU’s licensing program off-guard was the use of Cassius Winston’s photo to sell counterfeit merchandise. A “Sports Legend” Facebook page was discovered to be photoshopping Winston onto their sales ads in an attempt to sell more merchandise. The Facebook page did not respond to comments regarding their violation of MSU’s trademarks.

- **10 Most Counterfeited Products in America**
In 2017, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seized over 34,000 shipments of counterfeit goods in 2017, up 82% from the previous year. The value of shipments, however, dropped from $1.38 billion to $1.21 billion. Some of the most commonly counterfeited items are luxury goods, pharmaceuticals, and the athletic apparel brand Nike.

- **Trump puts Amazon, Alibaba on notice for sale of counterfeit goods**
  - A memorandum was signed by President Trump that seeks to decrease online sales of counterfeit goods. The White House is looking to collect data on the severity of the issue and wants to see “who is to blame”.

- **Illicit global trade of counterfeit goods is national security threat**
  - A recent report by the Organization for Cooperation and Economic Development revealed that nearly 25% of seized counterfeit goods have American intellectual property rights.

- **Fake designer goods seized from Missouri City father and son**
  - Shahid Nadeem and his son are being held in federal detention after being accused of trafficking counterfeit goods. The father and son were found to have received over 3,000 shipments from China which included counterfeit Louis Vuitton, Chanel, and Rolex products.

- **Counterfeit goods seized in Stanley retail raids**
  - Hong Kong customs raided retail shops where around 1,300 counterfeit goods were seized. The items have an estimated value of $600,000. Handbags, clothing, and leather goods were among the confiscated items.

- **$700k in Counterfeit Merchandise Seized Along Minn. Border**
  - U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seized counterfeit merchandise at the International Falls Port of entry. The goods were worth over $700,000 and included items such as earbuds, amplifiers, and sandwich boards. When interviewed, CBP stated that “stopping the flow of illicit goods is a priority trade issue”.

- **Fake Nike trainers and designer clothes found at Wolverhampton fashion shop**
  - After raiding a shop in Wolverhampton, investigators discovered 329 counterfeit fashion items for sale. Designer handbags, shoes, and sunglasses were among the items seized. In addition, the shop was selling items that sported stolen trademarks from popular brands such as Nike, North Face, and Adidas.

- **Police, Agencies Start Crackdown on Counterfeit Products**
Uganda Police, Kampala City Traders Associate, and Stop Counterfeit Products Africa (SCP) launched a countrywide operation with the intention to arrest those who are selling counterfeit products.

- **Fake phones worth over Ksh10m seized in Nairobi**
  - Officers in Nairobi confiscated over 10 million shillings worth of counterfeit Samsung branded phones. The raid occurred at numerous mobile phone outlets along Mfangano Street in Nairobi, which is known for being a counterfeit goods “hotspot”.

- **Beware: Dangerous Counterfeit Toys for Your Baby Are Being Sold on Amazon**
  - Jason Feinberg, founder of Fctry, is a manufacturer of a popular baby pacifier called the “Mustachifier”. Feinberg found out that his pacifier was being counterfeited after receiving multiple complaints of pacifiers breaking in baby’s mouths. Getting the counterfeits removed from Amazon has proven to be extremely difficult.

- **Counterfeit iPhones take bite out of Apple**
  - Two students from China were accused of submitting counterfeit iPhones to Apple for replacement. A federal complaint against the students was filed in a U.S. District Court in Portland, Oregon.

- **In rare defeat, Amazon retreats from its China business**
  - Amazon announced that it will no longer host a third-party online marketplace or provide seller services in China. Amazon is still allowing sellers to sell products through Amazon Global Selling.

- **Man Pleads Guilty to Selling Counterfeit Rifle Optics**
  - Mark Culp, owner of CulMar Outdoors has admitted to trafficking counterfeit Leupold rifle scopes online.

- **O.C. Man Arrested on Federal Charges Stemming from $72 Million Scheme to Smuggle Counterfeit Cell Phone Parts from China**
  - Chan Hung Le, Laguna Hills resident, was arrested for overseeing a scheme that resulted in the smuggling of counterfeit cell phone parts from China.

- **The government needs to double down on Chinese counterfeits**
  - The U.S. Postal Service is losing billions of dollars from counterfeit stamps.

- **WWE Gets Federal Injunction Allowing Them to Confiscate Counterfeit Merchandise**
  - WWE was able to get an injunction order that will prevent the distribution and selling of counterfeit items that violate WWE’s trademarks and copyrights. The order was obtained in the United States District Court of New Jersey and gives
permission for WWE or local authorities to seize any counterfeit items that are being sold by bootleggers.

- **About 75k in Counterfeit Merchandise Seized from Eden Business, sheriff’s office says**
  - After a tip was given to the North Carolina Secretary of State’s Office, an investigation was started that led to the seizure of $75,000 worth of counterfeit goods and apparel from a local business in Eden, North Carolina.

- **Red Points raises $38 million to help brands fight counterfeiting and piracy**
  - The cost of counterfeiting is rising, with the International Chamber of Commerce expecting the cost to companies to be about $4.2 trillion by 2022. Red Point, a company that provides online infringement detection services for goods, has raised $38 million to help brands fight counterfeiting.

- **China amends Trademark Law against Bad Faith Applications without Intent to Use**
  - China has amended their trademark law. A provision was added that states “any bad faith trademark applications without intent to use shall be dismissed”. Those who submit bad faith trademark applications could also be dealt an administrative penalty, or be punished by the courts.

**May**

- **PR: VerifyMe and Covectra enter into a strategic partnership**
  - VerifyMe and Covectra have entered into a partnership with the goal of enhancing brand protection in both of their companies.

- **PR: Central Pharma Partners with Veratrak to digitize supply chain operations**
  - Digitized supply chain operations allow for end-to-end visibility with the supply chain. By taking a proactive approach to cybersecurity, Veratrak has developed a system that generates an indisputable audit trail of all document processes and ensures GxP (good practice with the ‘x’ standing for the particular field) compliance.

- **Yokogawa announcement warns of counterfeit transmitters**
  - Counterfeit Yokogawa pressure transmitters pose a serious safety risk as they do not comply with industry standards. Yokogawa has issued a guide for customers to follow to determine whether their products are authentic or counterfeit.

- **Counterfeit Crocs Footwear Seized in West Bengal**
  - In West Bengal, raids were conducted against New Shalimar Shoes and Jay Maa Trading Company. The raids resulted in the seizure of hundreds of counterfeit Crocs products, which includes both shoes and bags. Store owners were arrested following the seizure.
June

- **Vietnam, EU sign landmark free trade deal**
  - Vietnam and The European Union signed a free trade deal which will lead to the elimination of 99% of tariffs.

- **Samsung pulls partnership with Supreme’s Italian clone**
  - The China Trade Mark Office (CTMO) has revoked trademarks from Supreme Italia, a company claiming to be associated with the US brand. Supreme Italia, a company owned by UK-registered company International Brand Firm (IBF), has insisted it sells its own products.

- **More fake Avastin found in EU, thanks to FMD scanning**
  - Four boxes of the falsified cancer drug Avastin were found in the Netherlands at a yet-to-be identified Dutch pharmaceutical wholesaler. The investigation is still ongoing but the wholesaler has said that it had not reached store shelves. This is one of the first times the verification system has been put in place as part of the Falsified Medicines Directive (FMD).

- **PR: Systech and Toppan sign partnership agreement to deliver brand protection solutions worldwide**
  - Systech and Toppan Printing have signed a partnership together. The agreement is a five-year global licensing contract to integrate Systech’s e-fingerprint technology into Toppan’s printing solutions offerings.

- **Fake Fidossi wine seized in Nigeria**
  - The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) confiscated 90 cartons of falsified and unlicensed Fidossi Spumante wine during raids at several retailers in Benin City.

- **Link between counterfeits and organised crime ‘clear’**
  - The large majority of counterfeiting is carried out by professional organized crime networks.

- **EUIPO gauges economic impact of counterfeit goods**
  - The EU Intellectual Property Officer (EUIPO) estimates that 6.8 percent of imports are counterfeit--up from 5 percent in 2013. Total lost sales in 11 different industries which are most affected by IP issues are up to 7.4 percent.

- **Protecting intellectual Property Rights on e-commerce stores**
  - The UK’s Intellectual Property Office (IPO) has published a guide for major online retailers such as Amazon and Alibaba to further enforce their IP rights against counterfeiters.
Gibson calls for help to identify fakes
- Gibson has implemented a URL submission form for guitarists to submit websites that may present trademark infringement issues of the popular brand. It is the first guitar brand to be so open with customer concerns of counterfeit goods.

Counterfeit cannabis labels are making the rounds in Saskatchewan
- The approved cannabis in Canada comes with a bright yellow warning label and a red octagon with a white silhouette of a pot leaf and the letters THC on it. Counterfeiters are mimicking this design for their own packaging. Legal cannabis is only to be purchased from licensed retailers in Saskatchewan.

July

China sets stricter controls on vaccines after scandals
- A new ‘vaccine management law’ was put in place around July 1st to enforce tougher penalties for parties that manufacture and/or distribute counterfeit vaccines. This law also includes stricter monitoring of the entire vaccine supply chain. New teams will be put in place at all levels of the supply chain for inspection.

Fake Captagon meds seized in Greece
- Authorities have intercepted a large shipment of fake Captagon, a medication that was once used for narcolepsy and ADHD. It is no longer produced or used for therapeutic purposes, but it is a popular drug that counterfeiters produce to be used on the illicit market. It had been shipped from Syria and was on its way to China.

Some FMD safety feature systems not working, says MHRA
- Some systems of the Falsified Medicines Directive (FMD) are not functioning properly.

Detecting chemical markers to uncover counterfeit rebated excise duty diesel oil
- “Fuel laundering is the term used to describe the illegal removal of marker dyes and chemicals from so-called red diesel (e.g. agricultural diesel) and kerosene to produce road diesel (DERV). In the EU, a dye called Solvent Yellow 124 is the obligatory marker, at least until 2021.” The process of removal generates copious amounts of toxic waste and poses a grave environmental hazard.

Reap what you sew: Kim Kardashian sues fashion copycat for $2.7 million
- Kim Kardashian sued Missguided USA for using her trademarks in connection with the marketing and distribution of its products. The products themselves were not counterfeit but using Kim Kardashian’s name is a trademark violation.
Operational phase of the African Continental Free Trade Area is launched at Niger Summit of the African Union

After a full day-long summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), the operational phase of the African Continental Free Trade Area has been launched.

August

Further deaths linked to illicit alcohol in Costa Rica

A total of 26 deaths are confirmed 72 have been hospitalized in Costa Rica over the past couple months as a result of illicit alcohol in Costa Rica.

A $1.5 Million worth of tobacco seized in Australia

Illicit tobacco was seized totaling 1.5 tonnes and worth $1.5 million in Sydney, Australia.

Kenya reports another illegal sugar seizure

Kenyan officials seize a roughly 450 fifty-kilo bags of counterfeit sugar suspected to come from neighboring countries in the region.

Porsche says counterfeit parts market is ‘booming’

Porsche reports of roughly 200,000 seizures worth €60mm in 2018. Wearing parts were top car parts counterfeited.

Long Island trio arrested after $1.5m fake vape seizure

Three men were arrested for selling counterfeit e-cigarettes along with illicit vape pens and refills sourced from China.

Amazon extends Project Zero beyond US market

The anti-counterfeiting programme “Project Zero” created by Amazon has been extended to Europe after success in the United States.

US Pastor arrested in counterfeit Cartier case

A North Carolina pastor was arrested with $24 million worth of counterfeit Cartier bracelets at the Deer Park Community Church in Chapel Hill.

Amendments to Trademark Laws (Laos)

New trademark applications in Laos will now be published electronically. Third parties will be able to oppose the registration within 60 days of the original application for the trademark.

New Malta Trademark Act

With the enactment of Malta’s new trademark act, a few changes have been made. The graphical representation requirement has been eliminated, and trademarks with sound, movement, and olfactory marks are now being represented.
September

- **Australia seized 123 tons of illicit tobacco in two months**
  - 123 tons of illicit tobacco was seized by Australian customs over two months

- **Third man arrested over Mac Miller’s counterfeit drug death**
  - Following Mac Miller’s overdose last year, a third individual has been arrested in connection with Miller’s death. Stephen Walker was arrested and charged with “conspiracy and attempt to distribute a controlled substance.”

- **Nigeria sets five-year objective for medicines traceability**
  - Nigeria’s Five Year Objectives aid in increasing the traceability of medicines in the country.

- **CBP seizes fake NBA championship rings worth $560k**
  - 28 NBA counterfeit rings were seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) coming into the US from China through the Los Angeles National Airport.

- **Electronics dealer admits $1.5m in counterfeit sales**
  - A Las Vegas man admits to trafficking counterfeit Samsung and Apple phones and products. He collaborated with individuals located in China.

- **Shell takes aim at fake lubricants in Malaysia**
  - Shell is collaborating with local law enforcement in Malaysia towards cracking down on counterfeit lubricants. Random sampling and testing of products is helping identify fake Shell lubricants.

- **Lab technique spots fake Bordeaux wines**
  - French researchers claim Bordeaux wines are distinguishable from counterfeit through tests that measure the lead in the composition of the wine.

- **Portuguese Intellectual Property Court with extended jurisdiction**
  - The Portuguese Parliament has adopted a new law that will give “new powers” to the Intellectual Property Court when it comes to the areas of copyright and contractual field of industrial property rights.

- **The Thai Trademark Appeal Board and Legal (Un)Certainty**
  - The Thai Trademark Appeal board has submitted new regulations that will become effective in March. Multiple new regulations will be introduced.

October

- **Pringles accused on infringing on Prosecco GI**
President of the Veneto region in Italy, Luca Zaia, has claimed that pringles “Prosecco and pink peppercorn” flavored chips violated the use of a protected name in their region.

**Fake STI tests risking false negative results found in UK**
- Counterfeit STI tests pose risks of false negatives when testing for sexually transmitted diseases. This can lead to an increase of sexually transmitted diseases.

**Pakistan unveils bids for tobacco track-and-trace system**
- Pakistan intends to implement a “national track-and-trace system for tobacco products” by March 2020.

**Under fire Amazon adds IP-based anti-counterfeit service**
- Amazon released the Amazon IP Accelerator which aids global companies to obtain a US trademark, among other IP rights.

**Accession to Madrid Protocol**
- Local brand owners in Malaysia can now use the Madrid System to protect their trademarks by filing an international trademark application. This regulation will begin on December 27th, 2019.

**New Trade Mark Opposition Tribunal (Nigeria)**
- A new Trade Mark Tribunal was inaugurated in Nigeria. The hope is that dispensation and resolution of opposition matters will be expedited and backlogs will be eliminated.

**November**

**Nike pulls shoes and clothes off Amazon**
- Nike announced that they will no longer be selling their products on Amazon and will instead focus on only selling their products directly to consumers.

**More young Europeans shun illegal content, says EUIPO**
- In a report from the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), over half of 15-21 year olds claimed that they had not downloaded or used illegal content in the last year. In 2016, that statistic was nearly 40% less.

**Counterfeit Botox seized in Cincinnati**
- Multiple shipments of counterfeit Botox injections were seized by customs officers in Cincinnati. The shipments were arriving from Shenzhen, China and were labeled as “leggings” and “Facial gift”.

**Fake Honda airbags are seized in California**
Eight counterfeit Honda airbags were seized by customs officers at Ontario International Airport in Southern California. The airbags arrived in packages from China and had an estimated retail value of $4,800.

**UAE seizes $7.1m-worth of fake Toyota parts in 2019**
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) reported seizing $7.1 million worth of counterfeit Toyota parts. Included were parts such as oil filters and brake pads, which could prove dangerous to consumers. The seized items were destroyed.

**United Arab Emirates: Trademark Office Goes Paperless**
- The United Arab Emirates Trademark Office (TMO) announced new e-services that became effective October 6th of this year. Oppositions and responses to an office action can now be filed electronically.

**Singapore: Court Rules ‘Tartan’ Is Not a Geographical Indication**
- Isetan Mitsukoshi Ltd, a Japanese department store, applied for the trademark of “Isetan Tartan” in Singapore. Scotch Whisky Association opposed the mark and stated that it contained geographical indication that would mean the mark is in violation of the country’s trademark law. The Singapore High Court denied the appellants claims.

**The RealReal under fire over counterfeit products**
- The recycled fashion organization The RealReal caused upset over counterfeits sold via their website. The RealReal claimed that their system for authentication is not flawed, even though a CNBC investigation showed that they have missed hundreds of counterfeits through that system.

**14 indicted in $6.1m counterfeit Apple scheme**
- 14 people were accused of organized a scheme to defraud Apple. 14 people were indicted for importing around 10,000 counterfeit Apple iPhones and iPads from China and exchanging them with Apple under a warranty. After receiving the genuine replacement product from Apple, the genuine product was sent to China to be sold for high profits.

**Soft Opening of New Trade Mark Register**
- Myanmar’s Trade Mark Act will be implemented in the middle of next year. The office reports that they will begin working in the form of a “soft opening”.

**New Trade Mark Examination Guideline in Turkey**
- The Turkish Patent and Trademark Office published The New Trademark Examination Guide on September 30th. The guide “defines the criteria regarding the examination of trade mark applications on absolute grounds within the scope of the Industrial Property Code that came into force in 2017”.
Survey Reveals Number of Shoppers Buying Counterfeit Goods

- A survey conducted by Incopro and Sapio Research found that about 32% of respondents had purchased a fake good in the past year. 26% of respondents report being tricked into buying a counterfeit good, while 22% knowingly purchased an item that was counterfeit.

Nike, 3M Seek New Weapon in Battle Against Counterfeit Goods

- Nike and 3M Co. are in support of draft legislation that would allow U.S. Customs to seize goods that are believed to infringe patented designs.

Task Force seizes 340 fake Nintendo systems from N.C. shopping center

- North Carolina’s Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force reportedly seized hundreds of fake Nintendo Classic systems in Raleigh, North Carolina. The estimated retail value of the goods is over $800,000.

Tillis, Coons, Cassidy, & Hirono Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Seize Counterfeit Products and Protect American Consumers and Businesses

- U.S. Senators Thom Tillis, Chris Coons, Bill Cassidy, and Mazie Hirono introduced new bipartisan legislature that would allow U.S. Customs and Border Protection to seize imported goods that infringe upon any design patent.

Counterfeit goods costing UK economy £9.2bn

- According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), counterfeit goods imported to the United Kingdom were worth an estimated £12.6bn in 2016. Overall, counterfeit goods have cost the UK economy an estimated £9.2bn.

Trump Administration Weighs Putting Amazon Foreign Sites on ‘Notorious Markets’ List

- The Trump administration is considering adding portions of Amazon’s overseas operations to a list of marketplaces that are shown for selling counterfeit goods.