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ANSI Legal Issues Forum 2017: Patent Policies and Licensing Assurances



Wednesday, October 18, 2017

12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

[FHI 360 Conference Center](#) 1825 Connecticut Ave. NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20009

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ANSI Legal Issues Forum Overview

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Legal Issues Forum is held on an annual basis as part of World Standards Week.

This year's ANSI Legal Issues Forum explored patent policies and the licensing assurances received by standards developing organizations (SDOs). Because standards may include technology that is the subject of patents, many standards organizations adopt patent policies that seek to balance the rights of patent holders (to be fairly compensated for the use of their patented technology) with the rights of implementers of the standard (to reasonably access essential technology). SDOs sit squarely in the middle of that seesaw and must develop policies that ensure that the proper balance is struck.

Although SDO patent policies vary widely, ANSI achieves this balance by requiring accredited SDOs to receive an "assurance" – sometimes called a "Letter of Assurance" (LoA) – from the holder of an "essential" patent claim that it will license its patent on "reasonable and nondiscriminatory" (RAND) terms "to applicants desiring to utilize the license for the purpose of implementing the standard." How do SDOs acquire these LoAs? What are the essential ingredients of a LoA? How does an SDO know if the LoA it has received complies with its own (or ANSI's) patent policy? What does the SDO do with the LoA once received?

Panelists discussed these and other important and often hotly debated questions. The first panel addressed LoAs from the point of view of patent holders and implementers and the second panel from the point of view of SDOs.

Further reading:

[ANSI Patent Policy](#), [ANSI Patent Policy Guidelines](#), [ANSI Patent Letter of Assurance Database](#)

Participants



ANSI members and interested stakeholders including those from government, industry, business, consumer groups, and academia were encouraged to attend and share their perspectives, insights, and expertise.

Venue and Accommodations

FHI 360 Conference Center

1825 Connecticut Ave. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 884-8279

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Part of the World Standards Week 2017 series of events



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