



The 2022 Year in Review: Roundup and Highlights

A comprehensive summary of the most notable IP updates and developments over the last year

TRADEMARKS

- **Libya**
New guidelines for trademark registration were released to regulate affairs related to trademark registration and protection.
- **UAE**
The Trademark Office started accepting new trademark applications with an undertaking or a scanned copy of the signed Power of Attorney. Earlier, the original POA had to be filed along with the application form only.
- **Gaza**
Adoption of the 11th Edition of Nice Classification.
- **West Bank**
New POA revoked all prior authorizations.

DESIGNS

- **Gaza**
Adoption of the 10th Edition of Locarno Classification.
- **Morocco**
Ratification of the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement.

PATENTS

- **Egypt**
The Patent Office launched its electronic patent services and began receiving and processing patent applications in electronic form as of January 1, 2022.
- **Iraq**
The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) entered into force in Iraq on January 31, 2022.
- **UAE**
Documents legalization is no longer required for patent and design registration
- **GCC**
Direct filing of patent applications with the GCC Patent Office as receiving office, instead of filing with the competent national office.
- **KSA**
The EPO and KSA launched their joint Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program.

COPYRIGHTS

- **UAE**
The first reprographic rights agency was launched to protect the copyrights of authors and publishers.
- **KSA**
The registration of written works, including computer software and applications, architectural, technical and applied artistic works, photographic and graphic works, and 3D topographic works became possible in KSA.



DOMAIN NAMES

- **Cyprus**
New practice concerning the period of domain name registration, where all new domain name registrations are valid for either 1 or 2 calendar years.
- **Oman**
New regulations for .OM domain registration.
- **Qatar**
New requirements for registration and renewal of the commercial domain name (.com.qa).
- **Kuwait**
New requirements for the registration and renewal of third-level domains under .COM.KW.

LAWS & REGULATIONS

- **Kenya**
Deadline for commencement of the implementation of recordation of IP rights has been extended to January 1, 2023.
- **Qatar**
The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) announced that the Investment and Trade Court has officially started its work in accordance with Law No. 21 of 2021 regarding the establishment of the Investment and Trade Court.
- **Syria**
Documents legalization is only accepted through the Syrian embassies abroad, while the documents legalized by the chambers of commerce are not accepted anymore.
- **Libya**
Anti-cybercrime Law No. 5 of 2022 was enacted.
- **UAE**
New patent law took effect.
- **Vietnam**
New amendments to Vietnam's IP Law covered trademark, patent, design and copyright.

FEES

- **Afghanistan**
The official fees for trademarks, patents, utility models and designs have been increased at an average rate of 100% for each fee.
- **Turkey**
Increase in the official fees of IP filings starting from January 1, 2022, at an average rate of 35% for each fee.
- **Yemen**
Increase in official publication fees for IP matters as of March 1, 2022.
- **KSA**
Reduction in the official fees for the publication of trademarks, as of June 9, 2022.

OTHER IP ISSUES

- **KSA**
Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents (1961 Apostille Convention) entered into force in Saudi Arabia.
- **Egypt**
New Intellectual Property Authority to be launched, to supervise and develop the IP in different sectors.
- **Kuwait**
New requirements for trade name registration in Arabic, where it became possible to register a trade name in both Arabic and Latin characters.

