



European Communities Trade Mark Association

20 November 2015

## THE ECTA AWARD

ECTA, the European Communities Trade Mark Association, was formed in 1980. ECTA numbers approximately 1.500 members, coming from all the Member States of the European Union with associate members from all over the world. It brings together all those persons dealing professionally with trade marks in the Member States of the European Union. These professionals are lawyers, trade mark advisors, trade mark attorneys, in-house counsel and others who can be considered specialist practitioners in these areas.

One of ECTA's most important assets is the talented and committed group of volunteers who serve on its committees.

ECTA has also created strong ties with several academic institutions and its members serve as teachers and lecturers in many instances all over Europe and elsewhere. Vice versa, academics, being themselves members of ECTA, often join ECTA to give presentations on new developments in trade mark law in Europe and all over the world.

In order to further strengthen the cooperation and exchange with academics, ECTA has decided to grant an Award to an individual who has written an article or an essay of importance for the development of European Trade mark law.

The Award would be granted from time to time, when found grounded.

The Award shall carry the name of the association, namely **ECTA AWARD**.

### **Award Criteria**

Many jurisdictions in Europe have varying traditions of trade mark law that are often distinctively associated with and shaped by a variety of country-specific factors, including different legal frameworks, especially with regard to procedural law, regulatory and economic circumstances of those countries, among others.

The diverse character and makeup of its international membership and its strong link to many European Institutions makes ECTA uniquely suited among associations to foster and encourage further academic research and examination of trade marks and trade mark law in different European countries.

In support of this goal, ECTA considered the merits associated with such an Award and believes the following criteria for the ECTA AWARD are most consistent with the ECTA mission.



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### **Student Category**

To qualify for this award, the trade mark lawyer student and/or non-lawyer trade mark student must:

- be enrolled as either part-time or graduate student in law or an equivalent or related subject;
- write a substantive paper on European Trade mark law (i.e. related for instance to cross border issues etc.).

Such paper:

- may be published, wherein any publication date may not be older than two years prior to the deadline to submit papers;
- must contain original thoughts of the author and can be co-authored;
- must be written in English or, if the paper is written in any other European official language, must be translated into English.

### **Professional Category**

To qualify for this award, the trade mark lawyer and/or non-lawyer trade mark practitioner must:

- not be a student;
- write a substantive paper on European Trade mark law (i.e. related for instance to cross border issues etc.).

Such paper:

- must be published, wherein any publication date may not be older than two years prior to the deadline to submit papers;
- must contain original thoughts of the author and can be co-authored;
- must be written in English or, if the paper is written in any other European official language, must be translated into English.

### **Judging Criteria**

Papers will be judged by the Professional Affairs Committee of ECTA, subject to approval by the Managing Committee.

Papers will be judged along the following criteria:

1. Extent of research done,
2. Breadth and timeliness of subjects,
3. Cross-border aspects,
4. Enhancement of European Trade mark law,
5. Relationship to the Common Market,
6. Quality of writing,
7. Originality of subject and ideas.

The winning papers will be published by ECTA notably on the ECTA website. Therefore, by participating in the competition, the authors grant the rights to ECTA to publish their works on any existing support or media belonging to ECTA.



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A winner of an ECTA Award may not participate in the competition in the year immediately following the year in which they won the Award. There should be a gap of one year before they may enter the competition again.

### **Award**

The Award consists of a sum of EUR 2.000 as well as 18 months of ECTA Membership for the first prize in the student category, EUR 3.000 as well as 18 months of ECTA Membership for the first prize in the Professional Category and EUR 1.000 and EUR 500 respectively for the second and third prizes in both categories as well as 18 months of ECTA Membership.

The First Prize Award winners shall be invited to the ECTA Annual Conference and honoured at the Gala dinner on Friday night by the ECTA President. The travel costs (economy class/low cost airlines flight or train), 1 night at the hotel and the Friday Gala Dinner will be covered by ECTA.