



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES CONSEILS
EN PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

INTERNATIONALE FÖDERATION
VON PATENTANWÄLTEN

FICPI Congress Resolution, Toronto, Canada, 5-8 June 2018 “Virtual IP firms abiding by professional and ethical rules”

FICPI, the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, broadly representative of the free profession throughout the world, assembled at its World Congress held in Toronto, Canada, 5-8 June 2018, passed the following Resolution:

Recalling that the traditional ways of exercising the IP practitioner profession involve an identified legal structure, identified members of this structure, real offices and direct contact between a client and a practitioner and his/her team,

Noting new trends in the ways of exercising the profession, made possible in particular by the continued development of computerised communications and data processing, and now artificial intelligence,

Observing that one of these trends is the development of “virtual IP firms”, grouping professionals in new forms of practices and aiming to offer services and advice through internet portals,

Appreciating that such new modes of practice may lead to uncertainties from the client’s perspective as to whether the fundamental ethics and skills requirements for providing the services and advice will be fulfilled,

Urges that regulatory and professional bodies ensure that the fundamental ethical rules and client expectations of independence, competence, confidentiality, liability, handling of conflicts of interest and identification of the entity responsible for the services and advice are met.

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