

**Statement of Victoria Espinel
Nominee to Serve As
Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator**

**Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
November 4, 2009**

Thank you, Chairman Leahy and members of the Committee. I am honored to be here and appreciate your consideration today. I am greatly humbled by this opportunity and hope that, if I am confirmed, I uphold the vision for this important new position, the United States Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, created by the Congress to promote and protect the essence of American creativity and innovation.

It is difficult to overstate the importance of intellectual property to the United States today. A generation ago, more than two-thirds of the assets of U.S. publicly traded companies were comprised of tangible assets – factories, equipment, land. Today, more than two-thirds of the assets of U.S. publicly traded companies are intangible – these are the networks, the trade secrets, the management teams and the intellectual property that position American firms at the top of the global supply chain.

According to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, intellectual property in this country is worth more than \$5 trillion. Every year in the United States, more jobs, more exports and more incomes depend on intellectual property. We are successfully building the knowledge economy in America – and, if confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress to ensure that we protect it.

Intellectual property rights will foster and protect the ingenuity of our artistic and creative communities. The creative industries of the United States entertain and inspire our citizens and those around the world.

Intellectual property rights will spur and protect U.S. investments in technologies to disseminate information, to address climate change and diversify our energy resources, to secure food for growing populations, to develop medicines for life-threatening diseases and to provide productive tools for individuals to lift themselves out of poverty.

Americans across the country will lead the world in the global effort to resolve the greatest challenges we face today. Critical to this effort is a system that encourages and protects American creativity and innovation – our greatest comparative advantage – at home and abroad.

If I am confirmed as the United States Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, I will work side by side with agencies, Congress, stakeholders and the public to ensure that jobs that depend on intellectual property are not compromised by others' unwillingness to respect and enforce the rule of law.

By improving coordination among the federal agencies, the United States Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator can help ensure that resources are being used in the most effective and efficient manner possible. The United States Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator can facilitate sharing information among the agencies and ensure that each agency's efforts to protect and enforce intellectual property rights are actively supported by and aligned with the work other agencies are doing to protect and enforce intellectual property rights.

In the words of Chairman Leahy, this position can help "protect American jobs, American innovation, and American investments."

Our intellectual property is America's greatest comparative advantage. Better and smarter protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights will create more jobs; it will allow our industries to be more creative, ingenious and productive; it will reduce illegal profits pocketed by infringers; and it will ensure that American workers continue to lead the world.

Thank you for your time today and I look forward to your questions.