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Global Legal Studies Program Welcomes Six IP Visitors from Sri Lanka

In 2003, Sri Lanka adopted a new, stronger intellectual property law. Six professionals charged with enforcing that new law will visit The John Marshall Law School on Tuesday, Sept. 7, to share news of the IP developments in Sri Lanka and to learn something about the U.S. experience with developing and enforcing intellectual property rights.

The visitors coming to John Marshall - a judge, a senior official in the Attorney General's office, and several attorneys in private practice are specialists in intellectual property rights issues in Sri Lanka with responsibilities for enforcing the new law.

The delegation includes Judge Kankani Tantri Chitrasiri, the Commercial High Court judge of Colombo, Sri Lanka; Susantha Nandadeva Balapatabendi, state counsel in the Attorney General's Department;

Gayani Tharanga de Silva, an intellectual property attorney and consultant, responsible for the first Sri Lankan inventor to obtain a patent under the Patent Cooperation Treaty; Ranil S.S. Buddhike Illangatillake, an attorney in one of Sri Lanka's leading commercial law chambers; A.B. Ayesha Jinasena, state counsel in the Attorney General's Department; and A.A. Patriline Dilrukshi Dias Wickramasinghe, state counsel in the Attorney General's Department and a visiting lecturer in contract law at the University of Moratuwa.

They are in the United States to study approaches to protect intellectual property rights and to learn how cases are prosecuted and adjudicated in the United States.

The John Marshall Law School has one of the strongest IP programs in the United States, and it is recognized as an international training center for legal professionals to learn about intellectual property law. For example, the law school is currently hosting a delegation of visiting IP professionals from the People's Republic of China, part of the law school's 10-year program with the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China.

John Marshall is also recognized as an international leader in the field of Information Technology and Privacy Law, a field of law closely related to many of the technical and legal issues involved in intellectual property law.

The Sri Lanka visitors will have an opportunity to meet Professor Leslie Reis, director of the Center for Information Technology and Privacy Law, and with other intellectual property, information technology, and international law professors at John Marshall, including William T. McGrath, associate director of the Center for Intellectual Property Law; Professor Doris Long, an internationally-recognized expert in international intellectual property law; Professor Tayyab Mahmud, chair of the John Marshall Global Perspectives Group; and Professor Gerald Berendt, associate dean for Advanced Studies and Research.

Students board and staff members from the Journal of Computer and Information Law and the Review of Intellectual Property Law, and members of the Intellectual Property Law Association and the International Law Society are invited to attend the session from 3 to 5 p.m. on 3-East.

The visit to John Marshall was organized by Professor Mark Wojcik, Director of John Marshall's Global Legal Studies Program, which is sponsoring the visit. Professor Wojcik worked with the International Visitors' Center in Chicago, which organizes international visits through the U.S. Department of State and its Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Among other positions that he holds, Professor Wojcik is also the current Chair of the Illinois State Bar Association's Section on International and Immigration Law.