



Trademark Protection and Territoriality Challenges in a Global Economy

Irene Calboli
and Edward Lee

ELGAR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Trademark Protection and Territoriality Challenges in a Global Economy

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Trademark Protection and Territoriality Challenges in a Global Economy Edited by Irene Calboli and Edward Lee

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Foreword

When I teach courses in international intellectual property law, I often start by suggesting that much of the content that we will cover can be understood as an attempt to solve the problem of territoriality - both territoriality as a legal (political) concept, and territoriality as the dominant defining unit of social and commercial ordering. Understanding why international intellectual property law (apparently) paradoxically embraces a commitment to this foundational principle is crucial to an appreciation of the proper roles of international and local systems in regulating the creative and commercial environment. As the social power of territoriality comes under pressure from global trade and online activity, it might be tempting to jettison the legal principle entirely rather than to work out how to harness its enduring benefits in a contemporary context. But casting territoriality aside would be too simplistic a solution. Many of the contributions to the volume illustrate nicely the continuing importance of national autonomy, of difference and differentiation, of elevating local values in an increasingly global time. And others demonstrate the practical and political difficulties of substituting universal norms in place of what we now have. But that does not make this a conservative tome. It is very far from that. All the contributions recognise, and grapple with, the reality that intellectual property scholars must reconsider the normative and practical claims of territoriality in light of changing circumstances. But that reconsideration might sometimes lead us to reaffirm historical commitments and redouble efforts to preserve what powerful social and political forces might imperil. On other occasions, it results in acknowledgment that new institutions or new rules must be shaped to make it possible for intellectual property law to serve its core purposes. This is a subtlety that can be found throughout this volume; it is what makes international intellectual property law complex, and work like this vital.

The volume takes trademark law as its particular focus. The questions raised by territoriality pervade intellectual property law, but they are especially acute in the field of trademarks. Trademarks, as vessels for consumer understanding, have an inherently spatial dimension that reflects patterns of social and commercial exchange. Yet, the online world

that renders borders porous and physical place less dominant is trademark-intensive. Thus, as the title to this book suggests, the global economy is a huge challenge to territoriality of marks. The magnitude of that challenge, however, may only inspire harder thought and greater readiness for innovation. The editors are to be commended for bringing together such a varied and thoughtful collection of contributions, all of which vigorously accept the challenge that this environment presents. The result is a thoroughly informative and thought-provoking read.

Graeme B. Dinwoodie June 2013, Oxford

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the many people who have participated in the realization of this volume with their academic prowess and in many other ways. In particular, we want to express our gratitude to our colleagues, all distinguished scholars, who contributed to the volume. We are honoured by their contributions and generosity in accepting our invitation to participate in this project despite their busy schedules and many competing commitments. Without exception, all contributors met the production deadlines promptly and ensured that the materials addressed in the chapters were both timely and followed the general theme of the volume. We have learned a tremendous amount from all our contributors, and we hope that this volume, now in print, makes them as proud as we are to have had the privilege of coordinating this project.

Special thanks are due to Graeme Austin for writing an introductory chapter and comprehensively setting the stage for the other distinguished contributions to this project. Likewise, we are sincerely indebted to Graeme Dinwoodie for writing the foreword and, more generally, for inspiring us in pursuing the idea of a collective volume on this topic. We also thank our publisher Edward Elgar, and Peter Yu, the editor of the *Intellectual Property and Global Development Series*, for believing in this project and agreeing to publish it. Chloe Mitchell, Tara Gorvine, Alison Hornbeck, and the editing team of Elgar worked hard and with unquestionable professionalism in order to make this volume a reality. Additional thanks go to Heather Stutz and Kevin Wleklinski, who provided excellent assistance during the editing process of the manuscript before the submission of the final draft to the publisher.

We dedicate this volume to our contributors and to all other colleagues in the intellectual property world who conduct research in the area of international intellectual property. Regardless of their "territoriality" – nationalities, languages, and academic affiliations – these scholars have long recognized the need to address transnational, comparative, and ultimately global issues in their works. Almost without exception, these scholars are open minded and very generous in sharing their ideas and insights with other academics, and in general. They have undoubtedly made this field very welcoming and exciting. We thank them for their

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generosity, and we refer to them as a guiding example for all academics researching and teaching in the area of intellectual property law.

Irene Calboli and Edward Lee June 2013, Singapore and Chicago

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