



## New Copyright Law Creates Federal Copyright Czar

October 13, 2008

On Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, President Bush signed into law the "PRO-IP Act," a bill designed to strengthen copyright owner's protections against pirating and counterfeiting. The Act, sponsored by Sen. Patrick Leahy, <http://leahy.senate.gov/press/200810/101308a.html>, D-Vt., creates a new cabinet level position of Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (IPEC, popularly known as the "Copyright Czar") tasked with coordinating IP enforcement efforts across departments agencies and reporting IP issues to Congress and the President.

Other significant changes under the PRO-IP Act include increased statutory damages for counterfeiting, new court powers to impound infringing copies of copyrighted material (putting copyright law on par with protections afforded under trademark law) and increased resources available to Federal and local law enforcement to combat IP theft and infringement. The Copyright Czar will also interface with other countries to develop international standards for the coordination and enforcement of IP rights.

The full Act is available here:

<http://judiciary.senate.gov/legislation/upload/IP.pdf>



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