U.S. Government Resources for Protecting Your Patents, Trademarks, and Copyrights

Information on protecting and enforcing intellectual property rights domestically and abroad may be obtained by calling the STOP Hotline at 1-866-999-HALT or from USG sites such as --

- For a brief overview of “intellectual property,” in the U.S. and abroad –
  - the “Online Intellectual Property Training Module” (an online training tool for small businesses (SMEs), as well as a “needs assessment” tool – 1.5 hours), http://www.stopfakes.gov/business-tools/sme-module

- To identify intellectual property assets, see –
  - There also is a simple tool in the above-referenced “Online Intellectual Property Training Module; see http://www.stopfakes.gov/tutorials/data/us/menu/index.htm

- For general patent information –
  - “What does the USPTO do for independent inventors?” portal site at http://www.uspto.gov/inventors/index.jsp (including links to, e.g., “Scam Prevention” - “Pro Se and Pro Bono” - “State Resources”)
  - America Invents Act (AIA) portal site at http://www.uspto.gov/aia_implementation/index.jsp

- For patents and more, check out the Inventors Eye, the USPTO e-newsletter, archived at http://www.uspto.gov/inventors/independent/index.jsp (to subscribe, go to site)

- For help with patents and trademarks, check out your local Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC) at http://www.uspto.gov/products/library/ptdl/services/index.jsp

- For trademark basics –
  - http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/basics/index.jsp
  - USPTO “TMIN,” the Trademark Information Network, which features engaging, broadcast-style, videos that cover important topics and critical application filing tips, http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/process/TMIN.jsp
  - online filing, http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/index.jsp
  - trademark scams, http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/solicitation_warnings.jsp
For copyright registration in the U.S. –

- U.S. Copyright Office website for registration and general information (including Circular 1, "Copyright Basics"): http://www.copyright.gov

For enforcement in the U.S. –

- Section 337, International Trade Commission, http://www.usitc.gov/intellectual_property/inv_his.htm (see also 337 FAQs)

International considerations –

- "International IP Advisory Program," through which U.S. small businesses can obtain one hour of free legal advice on their IP issues in various countries, including Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Russia and Thailand and many others, http://www.stopfakes.gov/business-tools/international-ip-advisory-program

Some non-USG resources on intellectual property --

Trademarks: International Trademark Association (INTA) website: http://www.inta.org and http://www.inta.org/Membership/Pages/SME.aspx (including, e.g., "Understanding Trademarks" – both US and international perspectives; Madrid Protocol (for filing internationally); Global Protection and Enforcement of Trademarks; even – Overview of Advertising Law)

Domain names: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) site: http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/domains/. Also, at http://www.inta.org/TrademarkBasics/Pages/Presentations.aspx, see "Use of Trademarks in Domain Names & Domain Name Disputes"

Also, please see the following portal site for small- to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) site: http://www.wipo.int/sme/en/