



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

## Media Release

# Trinidad and Tobago Nationals Appointed to WIPO List of Neutrals

The Swiss-based World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Arbitration and Mediation Center recently appointed three Trinidad and Tobago nationals to its prestigious List of Neutrals: Mr. Nicholas Lue Sue, an intellectual property consultant and former CEO of Copyright Music Organisation of Trinidad and Tobago (COTT), Mr. Anthony Vieira, an intellectual property attorney and Dr. Emir Crowne, a senior lecturer at UWI's Faculty of Law (Mona Campus) and counsel to K.R. Lalla & Company.

Based in Geneva, Switzerland, the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center was established in 1994 to offer Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) options for the resolution of commercial disputes between private parties (copyright, trademark, entertainment, technology and related disputes are typically covered). The mediators and arbitrators for these disputes are drawn from the WIPO List of Neutrals, and range from highly specialized practitioners and experts with specialized knowledge in the areas of patents, trademarks, copyright, designs or other form of intellectual property that is the subject of the dispute, to seasoned commercial dispute resolution generalists. In 1999, the Center also began offering domain name dispute resolution services.

Recent talks were also held in Geneva during the WIPO General Assembly (October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017) between Mr. Regan Asgarali, Controller of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) of Trinidad and Tobago, Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs and the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center. As a result of which, a framework for collaboration between WIPO and the IPO has been established which will culminate in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organisations with a view to promoting the use of ADR to resolve copyright, trademark, entertainment, technology and related disputes. As part of the collaboration,

parties to international disputes can opt for WIPO mediation benefitting from a competitive fee scheme and the international expertise of the WIPO neutrals.

“The MOU and the appointment of three nationals to the List of Neutrals is a growing recognition of the importance of IP to the local economy, and the expertise that exists in our region for the protection of intellectual creations, whether through registration or ADR”, said the Controller of IPO, Mr. Regan Asgarali.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.ipo.gov.tt/>.

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Dated: December 5<sup>th</sup> 2017