



European Communities Trade Mark Association

THE ECTA AWARD - PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY

ECTA, the European Communities Trade Mark Association, is a non-governmental association that unites over 1.400 members coming from all European Union Member States with associate members from all over the world. The powerful network of members consists of professionals with a practical knowledge in trade marks, in particular, lawyers, trade mark advisors, trade mark attorneys, in-house counsel and others who can be considered specialist practitioners in these areas. The diverse character and makeup of its international membership and its strong link to many European Institutions makes ECTA uniquely suited among associations to foster and encourage further academic research and examination of trade marks and trade mark law in different European countries.

In order to further strengthen the cooperation and exchange with academics, ECTA has decided to grant the ECTA Award in two categories, i.e. student and professional, to an individual who has written an article or an essay of importance in the subject matter of and for the development of **European Trade mark law**. The Award would be granted from time to time, when found grounded, at ECTA's discretion.

The ECTA Award, if granted, will be presented at a special ceremony during the Association's 36th Annual Conference in Budapest, Hungary. The Award consists of a sum of EUR 3.000 as well as 18 months of ECTA Membership for the first prize in the professional category, EUR 1.000 and EUR 500 respectively for the second and third prizes, as well as 18 months of ECTA Membership. The winning papers will be published by ECTA notably on the ECTA website. Therefore, by participating to the selection, the authors grant to ECTA the rights to publish their works on any existing support or media.

To qualify for this award, the trade mark lawyer and/or non-lawyer trade mark practitioner must: (i) not be a student; (ii) write a substantive paper on European Trade mark law (i.e. related for instance to cross border issues etc.). Such paper: (i) must be published, wherein any publication date may not be older than two years prior to the deadline to submit papers; (ii) must contain original thoughts of the author and can be co-authored; (iii) must be written in English or, if the paper is written in any other European official language, must be translated into English.

Papers will be judged by the Professional Affairs Committee of ECTA, subject to approval by the Management Committee. Papers will be judged along the following criteria: (i) extent of research done, (ii) breadth and timeliness of subjects, (iii) cross-border aspects, (iv) enhancement of European Trade mark law, (v) relationship to the Common Market, (vi) quality of writing, (vii) originality of subject and ideas.

More detailed Information about the ECTA Award is attached.

The **deadline** for receipt of papers is **15 March 2017**.

Papers shall be sent to the ECTA Secretariat by e-mail to ecta@ecta.org.

ECTA kindly requests that your organisation spreads this information and encourages its members to participate in the selection and to use the possibility not only to win the award but to share with professionals their academic or practical research and ideas for improvement of the trade mark protection at national and EU level.