



**ALLIANCE**  
FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

## British IP Day Celebrated in Parliament



**London, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015:** The Alliance for Intellectual Property yesterday celebrated the first ever British IP day at its annual reception held in Parliament, at which the Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, gave the key note speech.

This year's event was hosted by Pete Wishart MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Intellectual Property Group, and brought together creators and designers from across the UK with members of the House of Commons and House of Lords to celebrate the huge contribution they make to the UK's economy and cultural life.

Intellectual Property is hugely important to the UK economy whether in the creative industries, branded goods or the manufacturing and design sectors. IP rich industries are driving the economy and are the bedrock of modern, knowledge driven economies such as the UK.

The first ever Alliance *IP Champion Award* was also presented by Baroness Neville-Rolfe, the Government's IP Minister, to Anti-Copying in Design (ACID) for their campaigning work to improve the protection given to design rights. The award was collected by Dids Macdonald OBE, Chief Executive of ACID.

**John Whittingdale MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, said:**

*"The success of our creative industries is built upon strong intellectual property rights. I strongly support the efforts of the Alliance for IP on raising awareness of this. I also look forward to working with them in identifying the opportunities as well as the challenges resulting from Britain leaving the European Union."*

*I am delighted that the Digital Economy Bill, published yesterday, includes measures which will bring criminal penalties for online copyright infringement into line with physical infringement – ensuring we have the right legal framework in place to support creators and the content they produce."*

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe, Minister for Intellectual Property, said:**

*"The UK has one of the best and most respected IP regimes in the world. We have developed an environment in which innovators, designers and the creative sector can thrive - for that we should be proud."*

*"It is high time we had a day to celebrate the huge role that intellectual property plays in the UK economy. From the pharmaceutical industry to fashion design IP is the lifeblood of UK innovation."*

*"In the light of recent events I want to assure rights holders that they can continue to expect an outstanding professional service. We will engage with stakeholders and seek to ensure that we remain one of the most envied IP environments in the world."*

**Commenting on the event, Bill Bush, Chair of the Alliance and Executive Director at The Premier League, which sponsored the event, said:**

*"Intellectual property is vital to our economy and cultural life. Without its promotion and protection, the ability for our economy to compete internationally would be damaged. It was encouraging to hear Ministers be supportive of our cause at the event, demonstrating their recognition of the importance of IP. A special mention should of course go to ACID who have done so much to protect the rights of thousands of designers, often small businesses and who received the first ever IP Champion Award."*

**ENDS**

For further information please contact Alex Burr on 0207 618 9108 or email [alliance@luther.co.uk](mailto:alliance@luther.co.uk)

#### **Notes to editors**

#### **The Alliance for Intellectual Property**

Established in 1998, the Alliance for Intellectual Property represents 23 trade associations from across the creative, branded and design sectors with a collective interest in ensuring that IP rights are valued in the UK and that a legislative regime exists which enables the value and contribution of these rights to be fully realised. Our members include representatives of the audio visual, music, games and business software, sports rights, branded manufactured goods, publishing, retailing and design sectors.

[www.allianceforip.co.uk](http://www.allianceforip.co.uk)

#### **Alliance members**

Anti Copying in Design  
Anti-Counterfeiting Group  
Association of Authors' Agents  
Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society  
British Association for Screen Entertainment  
British Brands Group  
BPI (British Recorded Music Industry)  
BSA| The Software Alliance  
Copyright Licensing Agency  
Design and Artists Copyright Society  
Educational Recording Agency  
Entertainment Retailers Association  
Federation Against Copyright Theft  
Film Distributors Association  
Motion Picture Association  
Premier League  
Professional Publishers Association  
PRS for Music  
The Publishers Association  
Publishers Licensing Society  
UK Cinema Association  
UK Interactive Entertainment  
UK Music