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CONTENT & TECHNOLOGY POLICY REPORT JULY 12, 2024



I. Congressional Updates:

- On June 26, the House Committee on Appropriations held a markup session for the [FY 2025 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill](#). The bill was ultimately approved by voice vote. The *FY25 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill* provides a total discretionary allocation of \$78.288 billion, which is \$1.275 billion (2%) below the Fiscal Year 2024 spending level. Significant allocations include Department of Justice (DOJ): \$37.956 billion; Department of Commerce (DOC): \$11.1 billion; National Science Foundation (NSF): \$9.5 billion; and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): \$25 billion. The full markup can be watched [here](#) and a full summary from ACG can be provided upon request.
- On June 27th, the House appropriations subcommittee held a markup of [H.R.4820](#) the *Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill*. Sponsored by Representative Tom Cole (R-OK-04) the bill provides FY2025 appropriations to the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and several related agencies. The bill passed in the subcommittee by voice vote. All amendments were reserved until a meeting with the full committee in a few weeks. Video coverage of the markup can be found [here](#) and a full summary from ACG can be provided upon request.
- On July 3, *The Hill* reported that a bipartisan group of lawmakers sent a letter to the Department of Justice (DOJ) asking them to take quick action on a TikTok complaint referred to the DOJ by the Federal Trade Commission

Headlines and Highlights:

- House Appropriations Passes CJS Bill
- Oversight of the Library of Congress Hearing
- White House Creator Economy Conference
- Biden-Harris Administration Announce \$504 Million for 12 Tech Hubs
- FTC Blog Post of Open-Weights AI Models
- USCO Issues Final Rule on Termination Rights Under the MMA
- WIPO Reports Global Intangible Assets Reach Nearly \$7 Trillion

In the Blogs:

- **Hugh Stephens Blog:** [Copyright in Cottage Country](#)
- **IPWatchdog:** [How to Really Improve the U.S. Patent System: Support USPTO Employees](#)
- **EDM.com:** [Spotify Is Testing A New In-App Emergency Alert System](#)
- **Billboard:** [‘Landmark Victory’: Copyright Office Finalizes Rule Change On Streaming Royalties](#)

(FTC). The complaint at issue centers on allegations of TikTok violating the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), which was uncovered through an FTC investigation. Sens. Ed Markey (D-MA) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Reps. Tim Walberg (R-MI) and Kathy Castor (D-FL) wrote, ““Given TikTok’s previous violations of COPPA and the critical need to protect children’s online privacy, we urge the Department to expeditiously investigate these allegations and take all necessary action to protect children’s online privacy.” Read more from *The Hill* [here](#) and the full letter [here](#).

- On July 9, the House Appropriations Committee passed the FY25 CJS bill. The full 7-hour markup can be found [here](#). The measure was approved by the Committee with a vote of 31 to 26. Overall, the bill provides \$78.288 billion in discretionary funding, which is \$1.275 billion or 2% below FY2024 levels. There were no specific mentions of the USPTO during the markup debate, but the bill allocates \$4.555 billion for the United States Patent and Trademark Office, which is \$359.141 million above the FY24 enacted level and equal to the President’s Budget Request. A full summary from ACG can be provided upon request.
- On July 9, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce held a hearing titled, “[The Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Trade Commission Budget](#).” Witnesses included Ms. Lina Khan (Chair, Federal Trade Commission), Ms. Rebecca Slaughter (Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission), Mr. Alvaro Bedoya (Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission), Ms. Melissa Holyoak (Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission), and Mr. Andrew Ferguson (Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission). A full summary from ACG can be provided upon request.
- On July 10, the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing entitled, “[Collusion in the Global Alliance for Responsible Media](#).” The hearing featured testimonies from the following witnesses: Ben Shapiro (Conservative Political Commentator & Co-Founder, The Daily Wire), Herrish Patel (President, Unilever USA), Christian Juhl (Global Chief Executive Office, GroupM), and Spencer Waller (Justice John Paul Stevens Chair in Competition Law, Loyola University Chicago School of Law). Prior to the hearing, the House Judiciary Committee released an interim staff report titled “GARM’s Harm: How the World’s Biggest Brands Seek to Control Online Speech.” You can read the full report [here](#). The report details how major corporations, advertising agencies, and industry associations, through the World Federation of Advertisers (WFA) and its Global Alliance for Responsible Media (GARM) initiative, engaged in boycotts and coordinated efforts to demonetize platforms, podcasts, news outlets, and other content that GARM and its members consider unfavorable. The hearing’s discussion fell along partisan lines, with Republicans asserting that GARM colluded against conservative media, potentially violating antitrust laws, while Democrats maintained that companies have the right to choose where to and where not to place their advertisements. Chairman Jordan highlighted emails suggesting coordinated actions against conservative outlets and questioned whether GARM’s “uncommon collaboration” amounted to anticompetitive behavior. Ranking Member Nadler and other Democrats emphasized that GARM’s actions were voluntary and aimed at avoiding harmful content, criticizing the investigation as a misuse of Committee power to intimidate organizations that disagree with conservative viewpoints. A full summary from ACG can be provided upon request.
- On Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 10:15 a.m. ET, the Committee on House Administration held a hearing titled, “Oversight of the Library of Congress” in room 1310 of the Longworth

House Office Building. Dr. Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress, served as the primary witness, providing testimony on various aspects of the Library's activities and future plans. The Committee reviewed and evaluated the operations, initiatives, and strategic plans of the Library of Congress. This included discussing progress on digitization efforts, cybersecurity measures, public engagement, educational outreach, and the allocation of funding and resources. The hearing aimed to ensure that the Library effectively fulfills its mission to preserve and provide access to the nation's cultural and historical records while addressing any challenges or areas needing improvement. Of note, Dr. Hayden discussed the progress made in the U.S. Copyright Office, particularly the development of the new Enterprise Copyright System (ECS). She highlighted the successful operation of the new online Recordation System and the Copyright Public Records System (CPRS). Additionally, Dr. Hayden explained that a limited pilot for the eDeposit upload functionality and the Standard Application would be launched by the end of the calendar year to gather user feedback for further development. Dr. Hayden also emphasized the importance of sufficient funding to support the Library's mission and expand its services, especially in underserved communities. A full summary from ACG can be provided upon request.

- On July 11, Senators Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Chair of the Senate Commerce Committee, Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), member of the Commerce Committee, and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), member of the Senate AI Working Group, introduced the Content Origin Protection and Integrity from Edited and Deepfaked Media Act (COPIED ACT), to combat the rise of harmful deepfakes. The bill would set new federal transparency guidelines for marking, authenticating and detecting AI-generated content, protect journalists, actors and artists against AI-driven theft, and hold violators accountable for abuses. “The bipartisan COPIED Act I introduced with Senator Blackburn and Senator Heinrich, will provide much-needed transparency around AI-generated content,” said Senator Cantwell. “The COPIED Act will also put creators, including local journalists, artists and musicians, back in control of their content with a provenance and watermark process that I think is very much needed.” Read the full press release and list of endorsements [here](#). Click here for [Bill Text](#) and [Summary](#) of the COPIED Act.
- On July 11, 2024, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation held a hearing entitled, “The Need to Protect Americans’ Privacy and the AI Accelerant.” Overall, the hearing focused on how artificial intelligence (AI) has changed the landscape for data privacy and accelerated the need for a federal privacy law that protects individual privacy and sets clear guidelines for businesses as they develop and deploy AI systems. Chairwoman Maria Cantwell (D-WA) argued that evolving AI capabilities pose significant threats such as data surveillance and misinformation, and she underscored the necessity for robust federal laws to prevent corporate overreach, protect individual privacy rights, and maintain public trust. In contrast, Ranking Member Ted Cruz (R-TX) cautioned against overregulation, advocating instead for a targeted legislative approach to address specific AI-related harms without stifling innovation. He expressed concern that broad, stringent regulations could impede America’s technological leadership and disadvantage small businesses. During the Q&A, the Committee explored various topics, including the impact of regulation on small businesses, the necessity of federal preemption to harmonize privacy laws across states, and the role of AI in exacerbating cybersecurity threats and misinformation. The discussion underscored a consensus on the need for federal privacy legislation to provide clear guidelines and protections in an increasingly digital and AI-driven landscape, while also

ensuring that innovation and competitiveness remain core priorities for American technology companies. A full summary from ACG can be provided upon request.

- On July 11th, 2024, the Senate Appropriations Committee held a markup of the MilCon-VA, Agriculture-FDA, and Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for FY 2025. Video coverage of the markup can be found [here](#). The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, that allocates necessary funds for the operations of the Capitol Police, Government Accountability Office (GAO), and Library of Congress, among other functions that keep the legislative branch running and safe for its members and visitors was approved by the Committee with a vote of 26-1. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) offered a [manager's package](#) of which copies had been provided to committee members, who did not object to its passage. There were no other amendments proposed. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) took an opportunity to voice his opinion on the appropriations process with short remarks, claiming that the Senate could no longer responsibly allow the government to run on continuing resolutions and that violations to the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 were avoidable and unacceptable. A full summary from ACG can be provided upon request.
- On July 11th, the Senate Appropriations Committee held a markup of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for FY 2025. The bill allocates a total discretionary budget of \$7.125 billion, which represents a roughly 4% increase from the FY 2024 enacted level. The Senate proposal includes \$833 million for the Capitol Police, representing a 5 percent increase over the previous fiscal year. The Government Accountability Office is slated to receive \$883.1 million, marking an 8 percent increase. The Library of Congress would see its budget rise by \$20 million, or 3 percent, bringing the total to \$611.9 million. The Committee approved the bill by a vote of 26-1. Subcommittee Chair Jack Reed (D-RI) offered a [manager's package](#), which was adopted by voice vote. No other amendments were proposed. Video coverage of the markup can be found [here](#). A full summary from ACG can be provided upon request.

II. Administration Updates

- On June 28, the White House's Office of Digital Strategy [announced](#) that it will hold a first-ever White House Creator Economy Conference (WHCEC) on August 14, 2024. According to the press release, the conference will “convene a group of digital creators and industry professionals to discuss the most pressing issues within the creator economy today — including privacy, fair pay, AI, mental health, and more.” The conference will also allow members of the Administration to learn from creators and industry professionals and gain insight on how various issues are impacting their lives to inform policy decisions. The event is by invitation only, and those interested in attending and/or submitting questions for the conference can do so [here](#).
- On Monday, July 1, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced that Brenna Dougan will rotate in as the Acting Assistant United States Trade Representative for Labor Affairs. Most recently, Ms. Dougan served as Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Labor Affairs with a portfolio that spanned numerous trade and labor issues and concentrated on the Western Hemisphere, sub-Saharan Africa, and the United Kingdom. She leads implementation of the USMCA Labor Chapter and is the lead negotiator for the labor chapter of the U.S. – Kenya Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership. Read more [here](#).

- On Monday, July 1, USTR Katherine Tai announced that she will host the 21st U.S.–sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (AGOA Forum) in Washington, D.C., from July 24 to 26, 2024. “AGOA has been the cornerstone of our economic partnership with sub-Saharan Africa for over twenty years,” said Ambassador Tai. “This Forum is an opportunity to discuss how we can make the program more effective, to address today’s challenges and deliver real benefits to more people across the continent. I look forward to welcoming my fellow ministers and guests to Washington.” The theme for this year’s AGOA Forum is “*Beyond 2025: Reimagining AGOA for an Inclusive, Sustainable and Prosperous Tomorrow.*” Read more [here](#).
- On Monday, July 1, USTR Katherine Tai released the second *Report on the Operation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) with Respect to Trade in Automotive Goods*. It is crucial that we ensure that this sector continues to thrive in North America, across all three countries, with good-paying jobs, empowered workers, and fair, market-oriented competition, especially as it transitions to new electric vehicle technologies,” said Ambassador Tai. “With just two years until the mandated six-year review of the USMCA, this report provides an important opportunity to utilize its findings, make adjustments, and fulfill the promise of the USMCA for our three countries.” The 2024 *Report on the Operation of the USMCA with Respect to Trade in Automotive Goods* can be viewed [here](#). Additional information, including the first biennial report can be viewed [here](#).
- On July 1, a [Notice of Public Roundtable](#) was posted in the Federal Register announcing that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will hold a roundtable on August 5, titled *Protecting NIL, Persona, and Reputation in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*. The roundtable will seek public input on whether existing laws protecting an individual's reputation and existing laws prohibiting unauthorized use of an individual's name, image, voice, likeness, or other indicia of identity are sufficient given the development and proliferation of AI technology. According to the notice, the roundtable will consist of an in-person session and a separate virtual session. Individuals who wish to participate as a speaker at either session must submit a request to NILroundtable@uspto.gov by July 31, 2024. Supplementary information and a link to register to watch the livestream can be found [here](#).
- On July 11, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will hold two in-person stakeholder listening sessions on issues related to AI. The first session, which is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. ET, is titled *Input Transparency (Disclosure of Training Material)* and will address transparency issues related to artificial intelligence and intellectual property. The second session is scheduled from 1:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. ET and is titled *Output Transparency (Labelling of AI-Generated Content)*. The goal of the listening sessions is “to identify stakeholder views on AI issues to better inform policymaking and to assist the Office in preparing recommendations on executive actions relating to intellectual property and AI under the President’s Executive Order on Artificial Intelligence.” Participation is by invitation-only.
- On Tuesday, July 2, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) announced that they will be hosting a [listening session](#) on the impact of the proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI) on prior art and a person having ordinary skill in the art (PHOSITA). The listening session will take place on July 25, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET, virtually and in person,

at USPTO headquarters, National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum, in Alexandria, Virginia. According to the USPTO, the purpose of the listening session is to obtain public input from a broad group of stakeholders regarding the impact of the proliferation of AI on prior art and PHOSITA, as set forth in the questions for public comment in the April 30, 2024 [Federal Register notice](#). Attendees seeking to speak at the listening session, either virtually or in person, must register by 8 p.m. ET on July 19. Those seeking to attend, either virtually or in person, but not speak at the event, must register by 8 a.m. ET on July 25. Read more [here](#).

- On July 2, the Biden-Harris Administration, through the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA), announced another funding round of approximately \$504 million in implementation grants to 12 [Tech Hubs](#) to scale up the production of critical technologies, create jobs in innovative industries, strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness and national security, and accelerate the growth of industries of the future in regions across the United States. “Every American deserves the opportunity to thrive, no matter where they live. Today’s announcement that the Department of Commerce is investing \$504 million in Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs across the country will ensure that the benefits of the industries of the future – from artificial intelligence and clean energy, to biotechnology and more – are shared with communities that have been overlooked for far too long, including rural, Tribal, industrial, and disadvantaged communities,” said Vice President Kamala Harris. “These Tech Hubs will give regions across our nation the resources and opportunities necessary to lead in the economy of tomorrow while creating good-paying jobs for American workers.” “Through the Tech Hubs program, we are maintaining our competitive edge by advancing America’s leadership in commercializing critical emerging tech sectors. And we’re leveraging the diverse talent and resources that currently exist across the country to achieve this goal,” said U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. The 12 awardees are: Elevate Quantum Tech Hub (Colorado, New Mexico); Headwaters Hub (Montana); Heartland BioWorks (Indiana); iFAB Tech Hub (Illinois); Nevada Tech Hub (Nevada); NY SMART I-Corridor Tech Hub (New York); ReGen Valley Tech Hub (New Hampshire); SC Nexus for Advanced Resilient Energy (South Carolina, Georgia); South Florida ClimateReady Tech Hub (Florida); Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub (Ohio); Tulsa Hub for Equitable & Trustworthy Autonomy (Oklahoma); Wisconsin Biohealth Tech Hub (Wisconsin). Read the full press release and more information on each of the awardees [here](#).
- On July 3, USTR announced that Danielle Fumagalli will serve as Acting Assistant United States Trade Representative for Japan, Korea, and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Affairs. “We welcome Ms. Fumagalli into the role for the next 120 days as we say farewell to Chris Wilson. Mr. Wilson has been an exemplary member of the USTR team for over 30 years, having led many of our career offices throughout his tenure. We thank him for his service and congratulate him and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement,” said Ambassador Katherine Tai. The Office of Japan, Korea, and APEC Affairs is responsible for addressing U.S.-Japan bilateral trade issues, monitoring Japan’s compliance with bilateral and international trade treaties, and coordinating with Japanese counterparts on global trade issues of mutual interest. The Office also monitors Korea’s implementation of its commitments under the U.S.-Korea (KORUS) Free Trade Agreement, as well as ensuring Korea’s compliance with various bilateral trade agreements and developing U.S. trade priorities under APEC and its 21 member economies. Read more [here](#).
- On July 10, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) published a blog post that highlighted the potential benefits and risks of open-weights AI models. These models, which make the

underlying data of trained AI systems publicly available, could foster innovation, reduce costs, enhance consumer choice, and benefit the public similarly to traditional open-source software. However, the FTC also noted the potential challenges, such as restrictive licensing terms that limit market use, the strategic shift from openness to a closed model to lock out rivals, and the risks of malicious uses, including deepfakes and other harmful content. The agency emphasized the need for ongoing attention to how these models impact competition and consumer protection. *POLITICO* reported on the FTC's post pointing out the FTC's preference for "open-weights" over "open-source," noting that this distinction is crucial as it focuses on the availability of the data underpinning AI models. The FTC's caution against companies using an "open first, closed later" strategy highlights the agency's commitment to preventing anticompetitive practices and could lead to a better understanding of their future regulatory plans. Read the full blog post [here](#).

- During the May 30 [Promoting Competition in AI](#) workshop that was hosted at Stanford University in Stanford, CA, the Department of Justice (DOJ) invited comments from the public on the topics covered. A recording of the workshop is available on the University's [event webpage](#). Those interested in sharing comments may email them to ATR.2024AIworkshop@usdoj.gov by July 15.

III. USCO Updates:

- On July 9, the U.S. Copyright Office issued a [final rule](#) regarding how the Copyright Act's derivative works exception to termination rights applies to the statutory mechanical blanket license established by the Music Modernization Act (MMA). The rule is effective August 8, but compliance by the Mechanical Licensing Collective (MLC) of certain provisions under the rule is not required until the first distribution of royalties based on the MLC's records of payee information taken after October 7. The Office rejected arguments that it lacks appropriate statutory authority to make substantive evaluations on the termination issue, arguing that interpreting copyright law in the context of a statutory license has been a longstanding responsibility and duty for the Office. The Office also stated that the final rule is a "scaled-down version" of the supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM). Modifications include direction to the MLC to distribute royalties based on its records of who the copyright owner is at the time of payment, subject to certain instances, including if the MLC is notified of a different payee and scaling down on notice requirements for various kinds of ownership transfers by permitting the MLC to establish details for such notices.
- On July 9, the U.S. Copyright Office sent a press release inviting the public to [register](#) to attend the upcoming webinar: Level Up Your Copyright Public Records Search on August 1, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. eastern time. In this sixty-minute webinar, the USCO will share ways to search copyright public records using the pilot of the new Copyright Public Records System (CPRS), an easy-to-navigate, highly searchable database. CPRS is the second component to be made publicly available as part of the Office's new Enterprise Copyright System (ECS). The webinar will include a live demonstration of the CPRS pilot's powerful search capabilities. Learn how to leverage its many features to conduct simple and advanced searches successfully and receive information on supplemental research and support services the Office provides to the public. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers. The webinar will take place August 1, 2024, 2:00 p.m. eastern time. Speakers include Denise Wofford, Assistant Register and

Director, Office of Copyright Records, U.S. Copyright Office; George Thuronyi, Deputy Director, Office of Public Information and Education, U.S. Copyright Office; Michael Goldfine, Copyright Specialist, Records Research and Certification Division, U.S. Copyright Office. Read more [here](#).

- On January 30, the U.S. Copyright Office (USCO) published a [notification of inquiry](#) required by the Music Modernization Act regarding whether the existing designations of the Mechanical Licensing Collective (MLC) and Digital Licensee Coordinator (DLC) should be continued. This is the first of the review processes that the Copyright Office is statutorily required to conduct every five years. Written initial public comments were due by May 29. If you wish to submit reply comments they must be submitted by June 28. Reply comments by the currently designated MLC and DLC must be submitted by July 29. Additional information is available [here](#).
- On July 25, the U.S. Copyright Office will hold a webinar to keep the public updated on the Office's optimized [Recordation System](#). Separate from the Office's [registration application](#), the new recordation module allows users to electronically transfer their copyrights to someone else. The webinars will "cover announcements about the module, important reminders, frequently asked questions, and a live Q&A session." Anyone interested in attending may join the session. For additional information and to register, please click [here](#).
- In January, the U.S. Copyright Office (USCO) published a [notification of inquiry](#) required by the Music Modernization Act regarding whether the existing designations of the Mechanical Licensing Collective (MLC) and Digital Licensee Coordinator (DLC) should be continued. This is the first of the review processes that the Copyright Office is statutorily required to conduct every five years. Reply comments by the currently designated MLC and DLC must be submitted by July 29. Additional information is available [here](#).

IV. Industry Updates:

- On June 27, *The Verge* reported that YouTube is in the process of negotiating with major record labels to clone more musicians using its generative AI. The platform is offering lump sum payments to Universal Music Group, Sony Music Entertainment, and Warner Records for licensing their songs to legally train its AI music tools. This comes on the heels of recent lawsuits filed by the Recording Industry Association of America against AI companies Suno and Udio for copyright infringement, with the RIAA seeking damages of up to \$150,000 per infringement. Read more [here](#).
- On June 28, the Supreme Court ruled in a 6-3 decision to strike down the Chevron doctrine, which allowed federal agencies significant leeway to interpret ambiguous statutes. Many expect the new standard to increase the influence and workload of K Street. The ruling states that courts will no longer defer to agencies' interpretations of unclear federal laws, allowing judges to more easily nullify regulations in areas such as the environment, healthcare, and finance. Many believe this will lead to more opportunities for highly regulated industries to contest agency rules. Many on K Street believe that this decision restores policymaking authority to elected officials and enhances the role of lobbyists in guiding Congress through

detailed legislation. However, this shift also brings challenges, as Congress will need to draft more precise laws, requiring greater focus and expertise from lawmakers and their staff. "We are about to see if they—Members and staff—have the patience, expertise, and time to think through and reach consensus on details they have otherwise left to the courts and regulatory agencies," noted Ed Stewart from the Prism Group. The increased complexity and need for consensus in lawmaking could lead to legislative delays and uncertainty for businesses. Read more from *Politico* [here](#).

- On July 2, *IPWatchdog* reported that the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Italy's Luiss Business School (LBS) established [Global INTAN-Invest](#), a database that measures the growing interest and investment in intangible assets and releases an annual report via the *World Intangible Investment Highlights*. The report aims to enhance transparency and accuracy in global intangible asset reporting. According to Cecilia Jona-Lasinio, the report's co-author and Professor at LBS, "In today's rapidly changing business environment, investing in intangible assets is essential for companies to enhance their capabilities to cope with the digital transformation, to adapt quickly, and to stay competitive." In collaboration with LBS, WIPO reported that investment in intangible assets rose drastically in 2023 alone, reaching a total of \$6.9 trillion. These investments have grown more than three times faster than physical assets over the past 15 years, increasing from \$2.9 trillion in 1995 to their current levels. The report explained that in 2023, intangible investments accounted for greater than 16% of GDP in countries such as Sweden, the United States, and France — with India experiencing the most rapid growth in intangible investments from 2011–2020 at a rate greater than 7%. In their [article](#) announcing the report, WIPO and LBS recognized that, while intangible assets may not be readily apparent, their impact is profound as they generate more high paying jobs, improve product reliability and foster innovation. Read more [here](#).
- On July 2, *The Hill* reported that National Amusements, the parent company of Paramount, has reached a tentative merger deal with media conglomerate Skydance. Although talks reportedly stalled last month, a preliminary deal has now been referred to a Paramount committee for review and voting. Paramount has been seeking a buyer due to financial concerns and has committed to cutting \$500 billion from its budget. The company, which owns CBS, MTV, and Comedy Central, is a key player in the media industry but has struggled with declining linear broadcast viewership and a weak advertising market.
- On July 8, *Politico* reported that Canada's digital services tax (DST) is under scrutiny following the passage of Bill C-59. "Although Canada's DST is now in force, key implementation details remain subject to further regulatory action," said Jonathan McHale, vice president of digital trade at the Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA). "The opaque process by which the law was brought into force have cultivated confusion and uncertainty." The Business Council of Canada, representing companies like Meta, expressed concerns about potential retaliatory trade actions from the U.S., stating that the DST "puts our country at risk of retaliatory trade action from the United States, our most important trading partner." The DST applies to companies that earn at least €750 million (C\$1 billion) in annual international revenue — and targets multinational digital companies that earn more than C\$20 million in revenue from Canadian users with a 3 percent tax on Canadian revenue. Read more [here](#).
- On July 10, *Reuters* reported that the National Basketball Association (NBA) reached a \$76 billion deal to make Comcast NBCUniversal and Amazon Prime new partners while

maintaining ESPN as the home of the NBA finals. The *Athletic* reported that the deal will extend for 11 seasons. If approved, the new deal would end a 40-year long partnership with Warner's networks meaning TNT's Inside the NBA with Shaq, Ernie Johnson, Kenny Smith, and Charles Barkley would be entering into their final season. However, TNT could still match the deal, the *Athletic* report added. Read more [here](#).

- The Copyright Alliance is hosting a webinar on August 8 at 2 p.m. ET, titled [Photographers' Rights: Navigating Copyright Realities](#). During the event, photographers will learn how to protect their works through copyright, get practical tips for enforcing their rights against online infringement, and learn about the hot-topic copyright issues affecting photographers today, including the profound impact of AI on their craft. Our expert panel of speakers includes [Thomas Maddrey](#), Chief Legal Officer & Head of National Content and Education, American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP); [Alicia Calzada](#), Deputy General Counsel for the National Press Photographers Association (NPPA) and Media and First Amendment Attorney; [David Trust](#), CEO, Professional Photographers of America (PPA); and [Rachel Kim](#), Vice President, Legal Policy & Copyright Counsel, Copyright Alliance (Moderator). Please help us spread the word about this event to your members and constituents who may be interested in attending. For additional information and to register to attend, please [click here](#).