



IPO Board of Directors Commitment Form

(To be signed annually by every IPO Board member.)

The Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring the long-term success of the organization and ensuring that the organization fulfills its vision and principles. Thus, each member of the Board of Directors pledges to personally contribute needed resources, time, and talents to the organization and other IPO organizations. The Executive Committee shall evaluate and revise the responsibilities for members of the Board of Directors every two years. This list of responsibilities will be confirmed by majority vote of the Board.

Board member responsibilities are defined below. Board members are expected to carry out these duties in good faith and with the care of an ordinarily prudent person in similar circumstances.

1. Support the IPO Vision and Principles;
2. Read and understand the financial statements and otherwise assist the Board in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibility;
3. Attend Board meetings and actively participate in decision-making;
4. Be an advocate for the organization;
5. Promote the organization in ways appropriate to the profession and contacts;
6. Maintain non-public IPO information in confidence;
7. In addition to membership, make a financial or other contribution to IPO or the IPO Education Foundation appropriate to the Board member's circumstances;
8. Obtain various means of support for the organization, such as sponsorships, advertisers, members, exhibitors, speakers, etc.;
9. Participate in strategic planning activities;
10. Serve on at least one committee or task force each year;
11. Avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest;
12. Participate in/attend the organization's conferences and meetings.

Fiduciary responsibilities are defined below. Board members are expected to carry out these duties in good faith and with the care of an ordinarily prudent person in similar circumstances.

1. Duty of Care – Board members should be reasonably informed about the organizations activities and participate in decision making.
2. Duty of Loyalty – Board members should act in good faith to advance the interests of the organization. A board member should not participate in board discussions and decisions when they as an individual have a conflict of interest (i.e., their personal interests conflict

with organizational interests, or they serve multiple organizations whose interests conflict).

3. Duty of Obedience – Board members should comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws; adhere to the organization’s bylaws; and remain the guardians of the Vision and Principles.

IPO’s Vision

As owners of intellectual property we believe that intellectual property rights accelerate the innovation, creativity, and investment necessary to address major global challenges and improve lives. We strive to maximize innovation across all industries and improve lives throughout the world by fostering high quality rights and effective, harmonized systems to obtain and enforce them, on behalf of all our members.

IPO Principles

1. We represent the interests of IP owners.
2. We believe IP rights drive innovation, which creates economic prosperity.
3. We believe that valid and enforceable IP rights are fundamental to both developed and emerging economies.
4. We believe that advancing IP owners’ interests requires global dialogue and cooperation.
5. We seek to transparently address the needs of all members, foster relationships among members and facilitate the ongoing exchange of information.
6. We ensure that IP systems apply without advantage or discrimination to all industries and all technologies.
7. We believe in a sustained education focus for experts, professionals, and the public to understand and appreciate the benefits of developed IP systems.
8. We strive to promote improvements and eliminate abuses in IP systems.
9. We seek to maintain ongoing, constructive engagement with governmental IP offices, regulators and IP policy legislators globally.
10. We choose to lead IP initiatives or influence IP policy when there is sufficient Board support to justify IPO involvement.

Personal Commitment

I (*print name*) _____, am willing to make every effort to fulfill the association Board of Directors responsibilities as outlined above.

Signature: _____

Date: _____