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The December 2016 issue of Sterne Kessler's MarkIt to Market[®] includes practical tips for businesses trying to kick-start the year with an annual year-end trademark audit and lists the new gTLD Sunrise periods.

Sterne Kessler's <u>Trademark</u>, <u>Advertising</u>, <u>and Anti-Counterfeiting practice</u> is designed to help meet the intellectual property needs of companies interested in developing and maintaining strong brands around the world. For more information, please contact <u>Monica Riva Talley</u> or <u>Tracy-Gene G. Durkin</u>.

Editor:



Monica Riva Talley
Director
MTalley@skgf.com

Author:



Kelley Keller Associate KKeller@skgf.com

Trademarks - New Year, Clean Start

By: Kelley Keller

As 2016 draws to a close, now is the perfect time to slow down (or at least try), wrap up loose ends, and plan for the promise and possibility of a new year.



For businesses, the holidays are a particularly good time to take stock of assets and consider opportunities on the horizon. And, because brand assets are among a business's most valuable properties, taking a year-end look at trademarks is a great way to ensure the portfolio is primed to work for the business in the coming year.

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gTLD Sunrise Periods Now Open

As first reported in our December 2013 newsletter, the first new generic top-level domains (gTLDs, the group of letters after the "dot" in a domain name) have launced their "Sunrise" registration periods. Please contact us or see our December 2013 Newsletter for information as to what the Sunrise Period is, and how to become eligible to register a domain name under one of the new gTLDs during this period.

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Contact



Monica Riva Talley
Director
MTalley@skgf.com



Tracy-Gene G.
Durkin
Director
TDurkin@skgf.com

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