Key Takeaways

Global IP.
Driven by Data.
Powered by Tech.

David R. Stevens
Founder of Stevens Law Group

David advises clients on building and managing high-value, business-aligned IP portfolios.

Eugene Derenyi
Partner at Fogler, Rubinoff LLP

Eugene is a patent lawyer and agent specializing in cross-border protection, enforcement, and litigation.

Cary Levitt
Managing Director at Azami Global

Cary is a veteran IP executive with deep expertise in renewals, portfolio strategy, and legal operations.

Trade Wars & IP

Navigating the Impact of Tariffs on Global Innovation

Discussion Summary

Our expert panel explored how global trade tensions—especially the recent announcement of tariffs by President Trump—are influencing IP decisions and innovation strategy. While the topic of tariffs framed the conversation, much of the discussion centered on broader shifts in geopolitical and economic landscapes.

Key point included

Tariffs aren't the biggest concern structural change is

Panelists agreed that while tariffs make headlines, they're not the most disruptive force. The longer-term challenge is how global manufacturing and supply chains are being realigned, which directly impacts how and where companies innovate and protect IP.

Canada–U.S. trade dynamics could be strained

Particular concern was raised about the knock-on effects of U.S. policy on its closest trading partners—especially Canada. Changes in U.S. tariffs or incentives may create friction or force Canadian firms to adapt their cross-border IP and R&D strategies.

IP filings are becoming more tactical

Companies are filing more selectively, with a sharper eye on where enforcement will be possible and valuable. Filing strategies are evolving from broad coverage to strategic, business-aligned. protection

Manufacturing shifts drive IP relocation

As companies move production closer to home or diversify supply chains across new regions, their IP portfolios are being restructured to follow — especially in high-tech and regulated sectors.

Legal teams are expected to guide, not just execute

Clients are increasingly relying on outside counsel and IP advisors to provide proactive insights into trade-linked risks. IP professionals must understand not just legal frameworks, but also economic and policy trends.

Ask our team

Are any of our clients' IP strategies vulnerable to changes in global trade relations?
Want to explore how your firm can help clients build trade-resilient IP strategies?